

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 9 December 2019

BY JILL ADAMS

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 9TH

Research roundup

- Cognitive behavioral therapy may alleviate anxiety in autistic children better than other treatments do, particularly in 10- to 12-year-olds. *Journal of Affective Disorders*
- People with intellectual disability and visual impairment often display repetitive behaviors, even if they don't have autism. *British Journal of Visual Impairment*
- A gluten- and casein-free diet did not affect autistic children's behaviors in a small clinical trial. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- People with autism rate their friendships with lower scores than typical people do; autistic women, nonbinary and transgender people give their friendships higher scores than autistic men do. *Molecular Autism*
- People who camouflage their autism traits have an elevated risk of suicidal behaviors. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- There are not enough certified providers of applied behavior analysis to meet the needs of children with autism in the United States. *Psychiatric Services*
- Genetic testing for copy number variants in siblings of autistic children may help predict the siblings' likelihood of having the condition. *Nature Communications*
- Mice treated with antibiotics to diminish their gut microbiomes show more fear in a laboratory test than untreated mice do. *Quanta Magazine*

Science and society

- Employees with autism are particularly adept at analyzing restaurant phone orders that are unintelligible to an automated ordering system used by a number of Denver-area restaurant chains. *The Denver Post*

- The Youngstown, Ohio, police department has donated 100 'help belts' to a local autism center; the devices attach to seatbelts or backpacks and alert first responders to a person's autism or other diagnosis. *The Vindicator*
- A new park in Tucson, Arizona, plans to include a sensory area for young children with autism. *KOLD News 13*
- A Wisconsin clothing company, DIF KND, promotes autism awareness and includes a bag of sensory toys with every purchase; customers can donate the toys to a restaurant or company near them. *WTMJ-TV*
- A Florida law that allows police to temporarily hospitalize people exhibiting mental health problems or threatening self-harm is often inappropriately applied to autistic children. *Tampa Bay Times*
- The University of Virginia has launched a database of autism research on campus and helps match affected families to appropriate studies. *UVA Today*
- European Union countries have agreed to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos, a toxin that is thought to affect brain development. *EUobserver*

Autism and the arts

- A musician and father to three autistic children plans to play a benefit concert for an autism organization in Lincoln, Nebraska. *Lincoln Journal Star*
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