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## Examining the effectiveness of More Than Words: A parent-mediated intervention for preschoolers with autism

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### **Examining the effectiveness of More Than Words: A parent-mediated intervention for preschoolers with autism**

For preschool children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), social communication skills are often impaired, impeding their ability to interact with others. My research is in partnership with the Hanen Centre and their program More Than Words<sup>®</sup>, which provides parents of preschoolers with ASD strategies to support the development of their child's social communication skills. Each year there are an estimated 15,000-21,000 families around the world that participate in this program. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the entire delivery of this program has moved to the virtual environment. Through analyzing parent experiences in and the effectiveness of the virtual More Than Words<sup>®</sup> program, I will be able to provide a program evaluation and recommendations for quality improvements. An effective virtual program will allow families who live in rural and remote communities to have access to this program even beyond the current pandemic.