MOVING has started!

MOVING study: what has been done so far:

After approval from the Medical Ethics committee of Erasmus Medical Centre in November 2017, we have started recruitment of schools. The study consists of two cohorts:

- Cohort 1: spring 2018 - spring 2019
- Cohort 2: spring 2019 - spring 2020

In the first cohort, we have included 34 parents and 34 adolescents! Together with 32 primary school teachers and 28 secondary schools (including both the SENCo and the mentor), this adds up to over a 100 people involved!

We have started the enrollment for the second cohort. Until now almost 45 primary schools are talking to parents about the project. We expect more enrollments in the second cohort!

Current accomplishments

- Eight Transition Managers (‘STAP-coaches’) have been trained into the STAP-method (STEP-ASD)
- Last year (2017-2018), 448 primary schools in region of Zuid-Holland have been contacted by email and/or phone
- A total of 65 primary schools indicated their willingness to participate in cohort 1

Parents and students can also join the MOVING study when other methods of support, like tutoring, have been implemented. The STAP-method, in clear deliberation, might be complementary to other methods in order to meet the educational support needs of the individual student.

- 34 adolescents, their parents and teachers enrolled in the first cohort, half of which have been randomly assigned into the experimental condition
- Complete data from different informants on several topics, such as autism spectrum characteristics, problem behavior, school functioning, motivation and self-efficacy relating to school, teacher-student relationship and more has been collected in the spring and summer of 2018 in almost all participants.
- We are very pleased to notice an increasing interest in the MOVING project! Ten regional school collaborations in the province South-Holland have now agreed to support MOVING and are helping us reach the students who need extra support during the transition.

Pilot Usability

In the summer of 2017-2018, a pilot study was conducted among five different schools in the region of Alphen a/d Rijn. The results of the pilot have shown us that the Dutch version of the STEP-ASD (STAP) usable in Dutch schools. We have also received useful feedback. For example, parents and teachers indicated having difficulty with some questions in the screening questionnaire, as they were considered too problem-focused. One of the changes we have made based off this feedback was to add another category in the screening questionnaires to give parents and teachers the option to indicate that the child has no issues in a certain problem area.

A few notable results:
Parents in the pilot study indicated that the Bridge Meeting of the STEP-ASD method was a pleasant experience for them. They enjoyed the conversation in which they were looking for solutions instead of problems.
Parent: ‘I’m not sending my child to the new school as a problem, but as a new student with good and lesser sides and a unique story.’

The students also indicated that the transition into secondary school was made a lot clearer and that specific actions could be taken instantly.

Student: ‘Nice to meet my new mentor. Everyone said some many things about me that were accurate.’

Pilot Special education

Another small pilot study is currently being carried out in Rotterdam: the STAP-method is being carried out with 3 students who are making the transition from special primary education to mainstream secondary education. The goal of this pilot is to find out whether STAP is also usable for this specific type of school transition.

When do we expect to find out if the STAP-method is effective?

Around 2020, we expect to know more about the usability and effectiveness of the STAP-method in The Netherlands. The schools that have participated will receive the STAP-method for their own use, which includes the schools that have not been able to implement the method as their students were assigned to the control group.

News

SIA (Nationaal Regieorgaan Praktijkgericht onderzoek) is the subsidy provider for the MOVING research. This organisation has evaluated and approved the MOVING research project, so that we are now able to focus on recruitment and data collection!

An online movie can be watched in which participation to the MOVING study is explained (Dutch).

For more information about the MOVING research project, see the website (Dutch): www.hsleiden.nl/moving.

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