The majority of research into adolescent out-of-school behaviours focuses on leisure activities. However, problems arise in conceptualising leisure and there are inconsistencies between and within studies with regard to how these activities are categorised. Adolescent leisure is often defined in terms of sport or other structured extracurricular activities. However, ‘leisure’ activities for adolescents may also encompass part-time employment and a range of unstructured and/or potentially negative activities (drug-taking, vandalism, ‘hanging out’). Abstract

Families of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) experience significant stress relative to other families. To date, little research has examined the relationship between social support, family resilience and parental stress in families with a child diagnosed with ASD. This study explored the links between perceived social support, family resilience and parental stress in a sample of 50 primary caregivers of children between the ages of 6 and 12 diagnosed with ASD.

A report submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology), Faculty of Computing, Health and Science, Edith Cowan University. Supervisor: Professor Alison Garton. The majority of research into adolescent out-of-school behaviours focuses on leisure activities. However, problems arise in conceptualising leisure and there are inconsistencies between and within studies with regard to how these activities are categorised. Adolescent leisure is often defined in terms of sport or other structured extracurricular activities. However, ‘leisure’ activities for adolescents may also encompass part-time employment and a range of unstructured and/or potentially negative activities (drug-taking, vandalism, ‘hanging out’). Abstract

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