Abstract

OBJECTIVE. Prior research has documented caregiving difficulties in families of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, Latino families may encounter unique challenges. The purpose of this study was to understand the caregiving experiences of Latino families with children with ASD, including daily activities, coping strategies, and service utilization.

METHOD. Fifteen Latino parents of children with ASD were interviewed. The interviews were transcribed for analysis to identify themes of experiences unique to this population.

RESULTS. Latino families of children with ASD encounter many similar issues as non-Latino families but also unique issues that affect service utilization. Four themes were identified: dealing with the diagnosis, dealing with stigma and isolation from family and community, understanding the role of mothers in changing family routines, and utilizing services.

CONCLUSION. To meet the unique needs of Latino families, services need to be provided in culturally sensitive context that address children's needs within family units.
Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) present with difficulties in language communication and social interaction, and stereotyped and restricted patterns of behaviors (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Parents and caregivers of children with ASD experience significant stress and challenges in caregiving (Hayes and Watson 2012). ASD-related behavior problems or comorbidities such as adaptive functioning level, anxiety, hyperactivity, and obsessive-compulsive rituals are sources of stress for parents and caregivers, with special regard to low functioning children who demand the most attention. Anxiety in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Evidence-Based Assessment and Treatment begins with a general overview of the history of research on anxiety in ASD and the path towards evidence-based assessment and treatment methods. Thereafter, chapters focus on the nature of ASD and anxiety comorbidity, the assessment of anxiety in ASD, and its treatment. Later chapters are devoted to future directions for research on this topic, including a discussion of anxiety assessment and treatment for adults and minimally verbal individuals. Anxiety disorders in children with autism ... Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder tend to be less spontaneous than other kids. Unlike a typical curious little kid pointing to things that catch his or her eye, children with ASD often appear disinterested or unaware of what's going on around them. They also show differences in the way they play. They may have trouble with functional play, or using toys that have a basic intended use, such as toy tools or cooking set. They usually don’t “play make-believe,” engage in group games, imitate others, collaborate, or use their toys in creative ways. Related signs and symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder ...