

# ELABORATION OF AN INSTRUMENT TO VERIFY AND MONITOR THE FORMATION OF GENDER IDENTITY IN CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 6 YEARS

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**T**his study had objectives of construction and validation of an instrument to evaluate the factors associated with the formation of gender identity and that will be presented during the speech. The base for gender differentiation is biological, but the constructions in process, and the way it is processed, are symbolic and social. Therefore, it is necessary to place the discussion into a wider and more integrated perspective, thus allowing an expanded view of the phenomenon of gender differentiation and self-categorization, in order to comprehend how the biological and cultural factors interact. Considering the role of toys and children's games, was developed an instrument easily applicable and possible to be used in a wide range of contexts with children aged 4 to 6 years of age.

**Method:** The Gender Apperception Test (GAT - originally TAG in BR-Portuguese), consisting of 51 items, was applied in 303 children (171 boys and 132 girls) from public and private schools and after in 33 boys aged 4 to 6 years with diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

**Results:** The internal consistency of the items was very satisfactory presented in Cronbach's Alphas of 0.92.

**Conclusions:** GAT's psychometric parameters were satisfactory, indicating that this is an alternative way for empirical investigations and applied works in different institutions, capable of guiding measures intended to assess and keep up with the development of children's gender identity concept

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