

## Educational Interventions for Children with Autism

Children with autism have many educational needs. Previous research by the proposed supervisory team indicates that one of the more perplexing of these needs stems from their lack of behavioural flexibility (Green, Sigafoos, et al., 2006). That is, these children typically have major challenges in tolerating unexpected events and in coping with even minor changes to their environment. Unlike typically developing children, who learn to cope with and tolerate change in the preschool years (Evans et al., 1997), children with autism are likely to experience considerable difficulty in tolerating, coping with, and adapting to change throughout their lives (Rutter, 1978). This lack of behavioural flexibility is a major challenge for the child and his/her parents and teachers, but surprisingly there has been almost no research to investigate interventions in this area.

Applications are invited from PhD candidates interested in carrying out research to identify features of behavioural flexibility and effective interventions for increasing behavioural flexibility in children with autism.

The deadline for applications is 15 May 2008. Application forms are available from **[www.victoria.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/scholarships)**

Further information is available from the contacts below.

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