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ACSF:SC Project Update III – June 1st, 2013
Introducing…the first official draft of the

ACSF:SC Tool & User Guide

Psssssst…**FYI – ACSF:SC** is an easier way to say Autism Classification System of Functioning: Social Communication (which frankly, we know, is quite a mouthful).

The ACSF:SC is a **Classification Tool** for preschool aged children with ASD – *Not a Test! Not a diagnostic Tool, assessment Tool or checklist!*

The ACSF:SC can be used by – **Parents, who really know the abilities of the child being rated and the Professionals who work with them; Educators, Clinicians…**

Key characteristics of 'social communication' illustrated in the ACSF:SC Tool are: **a child's intent for communicating, skills and strategies and ability to reciprocate.**

5 classification levels, 1 being the most functional

Each level is a **'word picture'** that describes what social communication abilities of preschool aged children with ASD **look like - NOT the WHY!**
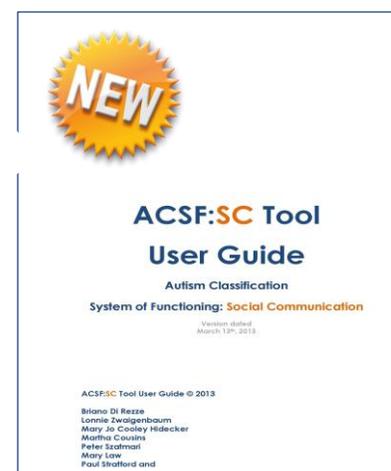
We have completed **Phase I** of the project which was devoted to developing the Tool and User Guide. In **Phase II,** until August 2013, we are recruiting participants to help us test the **ACSFS:SC Tool**, to make sure it can do what we want it to do; describe and classify preschoolers with ASD by their social communication ability. Parents are being asked to rate their child using the tool and then to choose 2 professionals to do the same. Everyone who participates will be asked to provide feedback about the **ACSF:SC Tool** and **User Guide** to help us understand how it is used and works. To see an overview and updates about this 3 year funded project please visit us at **http://www.canchild.ca/en/ourresearch/autism_classification_system.asp**.