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Emotional difficulties in children with  
behaviour difficulties, within special  
education schools.

by

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## **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to identify and address whether the symptoms of depression, anxiety and trauma are higher in children with behaviour difficulties than those in the general population of the same age and gender. A group of 22 children aged 8 – 13 of both genders participated in the research. The sample selected attend a special needs school for children classed as having behaviour difficulties. These children have been removed from mainstream education due to their behaviour. Literature points to the fact that the symptoms of depression, anxiety and trauma can affect the behaviour and academic ability of children. There is however very limited literature available on children with behaviour difficulties. The children completed a Child Depression Inventory, Multidimensional Anxiety Scale, and Trauma Symptoms Checklist for Children. The teacher and parents of these children completed a Connors behaviour checklist to establish a baseline of behaviour for these children. The asTTle academic records of the children were accessed from the school's database to establish a baseline of academic achievement for these children in comparison to the general population. The research conducted indicated mixed results both indicating that children in these special needs school have both higher and similar rates of symptoms of depression, anxiety and trauma.

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this thesis to my darling wife and my little angel. Thank you for being my rock, inspiration and support. For being there for me when I needed it most. Thanks for the sacrifice of time and effort. But most of all thanks for Monique my biggest blessing of all. I do this all for you.

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