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**CAROL SHEPHERD**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, USA

**MADOLON ALPERT**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, USA

## **RELATING TO ROBOTS: USING TECHNOLOGY WITH AUTISTIC LEARNERS**

### **Abstract:**

For the past decade and longer there has been much activity and research involving the use of technology in education. This is especially true for diverse learners, who have difficulty learning with the traditional pedagogies used in teaching. Learners with autism syndrome have shown significant positive interactions when dealing with robots rather than human beings. Even though many of the anecdotes and suggested methods in this research paper are focused on applications for students with autism, these same strategies can be effectively applied to a variety of diverse learners. The specific information regarding students with autism not only enables students to learn the content in a variety of formats, but also helps to prepare them to have fruitful, productive lives after their schooling and for the rest of their days. Results of studies have indicated that students become more interested and actively engaged in their classes, and have a higher level of retention than students in traditional online and onsite classes. It is important to empower students to become active, involved learners, and provide them with the incentives to achieve academic success. This is a work in progress, and future renditions will include not only anecdotes dealing with youngsters with autism, but also with those diagnosed with deafness and those who are severely mentally challenged with down's syndrome and other disorders.

### **Keywords:**

autism, assistive technology, robots

**JEL Classification:** I29