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Nuria de la Osa, Roser Granero, Josep Maria Simone Shamay-Tsoory, Domenech, Ezpeleta



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### ACCEPTED MANUS on in Oppositional Defiant preschoolers 1

# Cognitive and affective components of Theory of Mind in Oppositional Defiant preschoolers: Clinical evidence

Nuria de la Osa<sup>a,b,d\*</sup>, Roser Granero<sup>a,c,d</sup>, Josep Maria Domenech<sup>a,c,d</sup>, Simone Shamay-Tsoory<sup>e</sup>, Lourdes Ezpeleta<sup>a,b,d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Unitat d'Epidemiologia i de Diagnòstic en Psicopatologia del Desenvolupament (2014 SGR 312)

<sup>b</sup>Departament de Psicologia Clínica i de la Salut

<sup>c</sup>Departament of Psicobiologia i Metodologia de les Ciències de la Salut

<sup>d</sup>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>e</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Haifa, Israel

\*Nuria de la Osa: Departament de Psicologia Clínica i de la Salut. Edifici B, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), SPAIN, Phone: (34) 93 581 3853, E-mail: nuria.delaosa@uab.cat

#### **Abstract**

The goal of the study was to examine the affective-cognitive components of Theory of Mind (ToM), in a community sample of 538 preschoolers, and more specifically in a subsample of 40 children diagnosed with ODD. The relationship between affective and cognitive ToM and some ODD clinical characteristics was examined. Children were assessed with structured diagnostic interviews and dimensional measures of psychopathology, impairment and unemotional traits. A measure based on eye-gaze was used to assess ToM. Mixed analysis of variance compared the mean cognitive versus affective scale scores and the between-subjects factor ODD. The association between ToM-scores and clinical measures was assessed through correlation models. Execution and reaction time to emotional and cognitive components of ToM tasks are different at age 5 in normally developing children. Oppositional Defiant children had slower response time when performing the affective mentalizing condition than children without the disorder.

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