

## Interior Color Concept for Behavioral Therapy of Autistic children based on Lovass Method (ABA)

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Autistic therapy room interior design is an element of environment created for autistic children. Elements constituting an interior design such as color can create an environment or atmosphere that supports the healing process. Color can be psychologically influential. Autistic patients possess an ability to be stimulated by psychological effect of colors. The purpose of this research was to create an interior design color concept of behavioral therapy rooms for autistic children based on Lovass/ABA method. The color concept or composition in accord with the autistic child's character and Lovass/ABA method are the color with low intensity that can increase the ability to concentrate, improve the child's emotion and give comfort.

Key words: color psychology, interior design

Desain interior ruang terapi autis merupakan lingkungan buatan yang keberadaannya berhubungan langsung dengan anak autis. Melalui elemen-elemen yang membentuk sebuah desain interior, seperti warna, dapat diciptakan sebuah lingkungan atau suasana ruang yang mendukung proses terapi. Warna dapat memberi pengaruh secara psikologis. Penderita autis memiliki kemampuan untuk merasakan rangsangan yang dihasilkan oleh efek psikologi warna. Tujuan yang ingin dicapai dari penelitian ini adalah membuat suatu konsep warna interior ruang terapi perilaku anak autis sesuai dengan metoda Lovass/ABA. Konsep warna atau komposisi warna dengan intensitas warna rendah interior ruang terapi yang sesuai dengan karakter anak autis dan metode Lovass/ABA adalah warna dan komposisi warna-warna yang dapat meningkatkan kemampuan konsentrasi, emosional, dan kenyamanan.

Kata kunci : psikologi warna, interior ruang terapi perilaku autis

Child development disturbance could be an annoying trouble for the family. Autism, fragile x, down syndrome and cerebral palsy are some of syndromes of developmental disturbance, and autism is the most severe and the most prevalent (Handojo, 2003). Autistic children are growing up in number although twenty years ago, the case rarely happened. Chairman of YAI, Dr Melly Budhiman in a press conference commemorating World Autism day in Jakarta, April 2 2009, said that autism was growing up, and not only happened in big cities, but also in urban areas, although there was not any survey ever done. Indicator of increase of cases was patients being treated. In 1990, 3-4 patients were treated compared to 99 patients nowadays, 12 patients were autistic, and three of them were new patients 2-5 years of age. Moreover, autism is really not a disease, but developmental neurologic

disturbance that influences the brain function so that they find it difficult to interact and communicate effectively (Kominfo, 2009). Autistic children need special treatment so that they can interact, communicate, and socialize well.

Autism is a bunch of symptoms of behavioral disturbance which is varied among children. Behavioral disturbances show up as less social interaction, eye contact avoidance, difficult to develop language skill and behavior initiation. Handojo (2003) stated that autistic children have disturbance in behavior development such as speech and occupation so that they could not behave as normal children, if not taken care of quickly, the learning process would be hindered. Intelligence, emotion, and social behavior could not develop well.

Peeters (2004) in his book Autism said that autistic children process information differently. They hear, see, and feel but this sensation is processed in different way, that is why autism is defined as qualitative disturbance in communication and social interaction. Qualitative

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