# Specialist Module with Workshop: Assessment of Early Developmental Disorders

## Prof. Eleonora Mascheroni

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with:

* the knowledge of methods and tools for neuropsychological assessment of child aged 0-3 years in different development domains;
* the practical skills - closely related to the relevant theoretical knowledge - to structure and carry out an effective psychological assessment of child aged 0-3 years in different development domains;
* the ability, through *direct experiences*, to critically synthesize information obtained from the assessment of child aged 0-3.

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

* manage the main methods and tools for the assessment of children aged 0-3 years;
* plan an effective neuropsychological assessment of the child aged 0-3 years;
* critically analyse the information gained from the assessment of the child aged 0-3 years.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The main methods and tools for the neuropsychological assessment of children aged 0-3 years with early neurodevelopmental disorders will be presented. Considerable emphasis will be placed on the specific relational and psychological skills required of clinicians when assessing children with signs and/or symptoms of developmental disorders. Moreover, the course will explore how to analyze the main methods and tools that are used in the assessment of children aged 0-3 years with early neurodevelopmental disorders and how to summarize the results of the assessment.

Specifically, the course will be divided into the following units and sub-units:

1. Observation in early childhood:
   * Parent-child free play
   * Communication and social-relational skills during parent-child interaction
2. Developmental assessment with the Griffiths-II scales.
3. The assessment of social-emotional development:
   * The Face-to-Face Still-Face paradigm in clinical settings
   * Assessing theory of mind precursors: evaluation tasks for imitation, social cognition, and empathy
4. The behavioural assessment with the CBCL 1.5-5
5. Parent’s assessment with PICCOLO (*Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observation Linked to Outcomes Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observation Linked to Outcomes*)
6. The early assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder with the ADOS-2

***READING LIST***

Slides presented in class and available on Blackboard; lecture notes.

Further useful bibliography (i.e., textbooks and scientific articles) will be presented in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course provides in-depth theoretical studies through frontal lessons, presentation of videos, practice moments using role playing, small group and individual work, group discussion.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Learning will be assessed through an oral exam in which it will be analyzed and discussed a written report that students have to produce at the end of the course, critically analyzing and synthesizing clinical information obtained from some videos of child assessment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must possess good knowledge of the basic concepts underlying the main reference theories of typical and atypical developmental psychology.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.