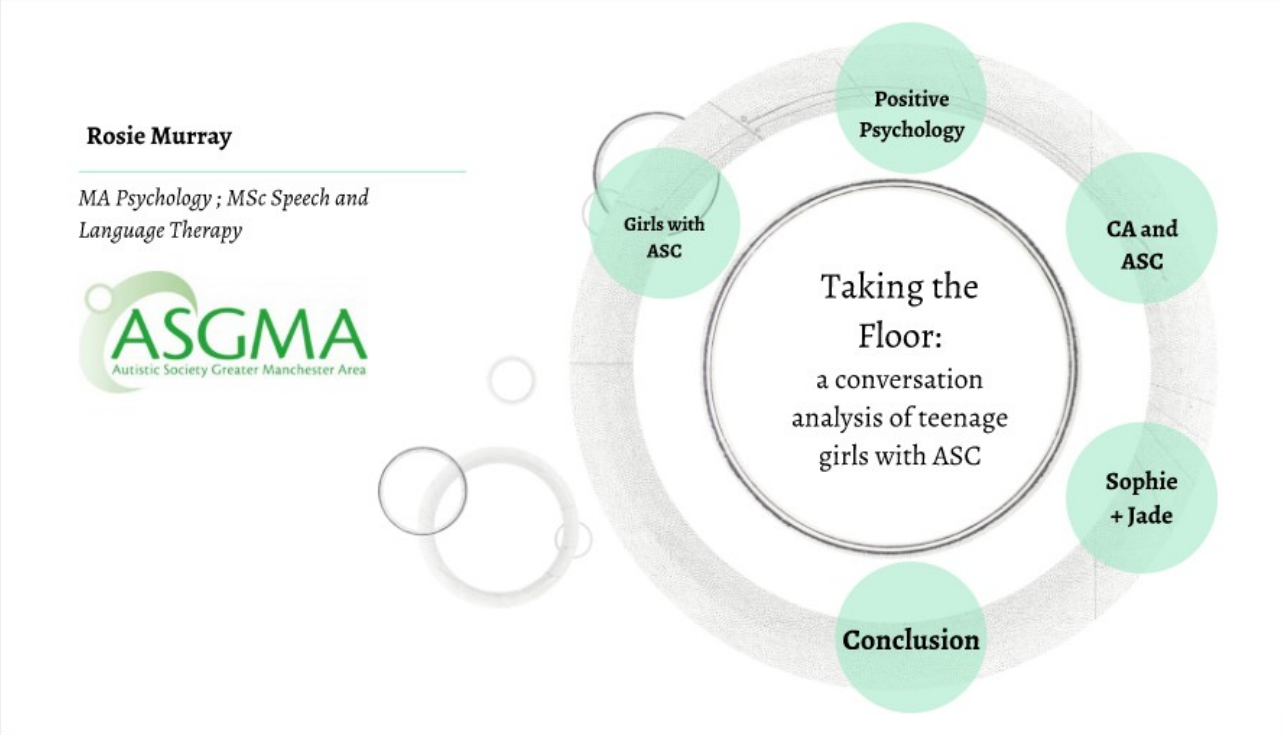
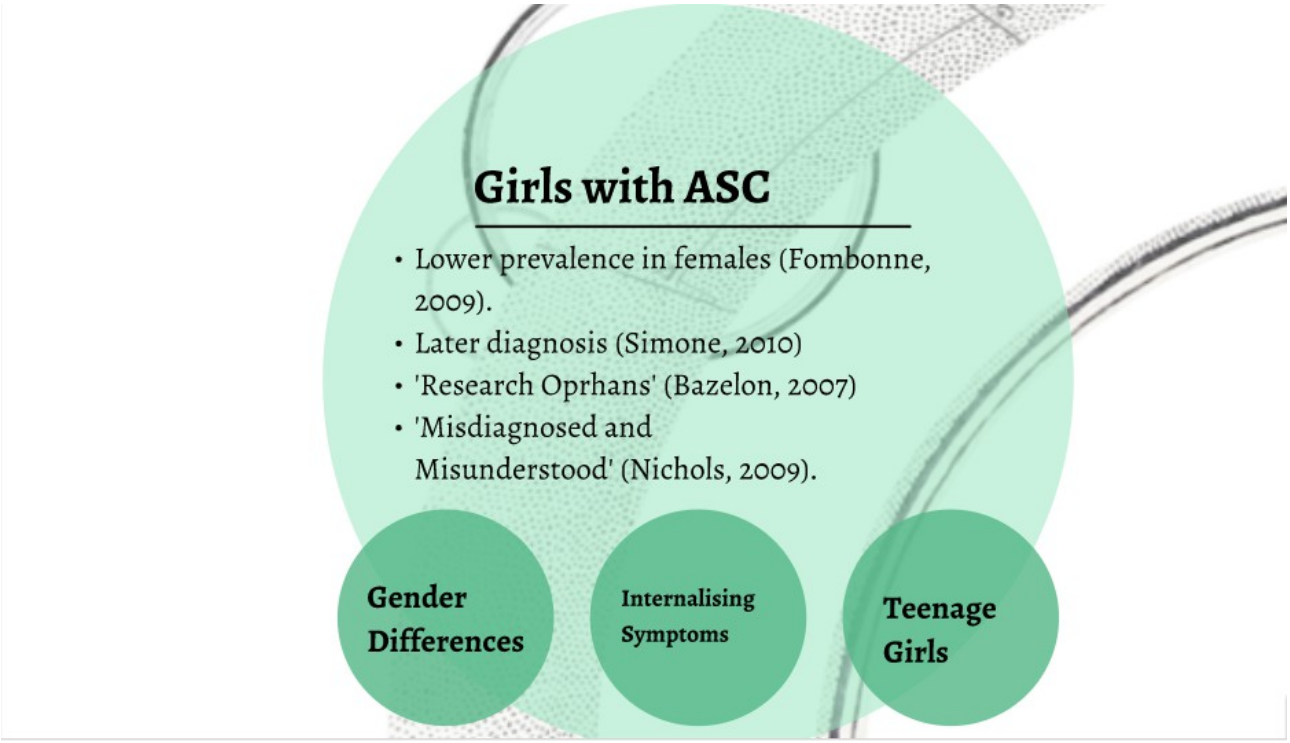
13/06/17 Critical Autism Studies Conference
Rosie Murray - "Taking the Floor: a conversation analysis of teenage girls with ASC"





Proposed Gender Differences

- 'Masking' of ASC symptoms.
- Relatively strong social skills:
    - Pretend Play (Attwood, 2013)
    - Communication (Nichols, 2009)
    - Social imitation (Hsiao, 2013)
- Friendship quality (Head, 2014)
- Behavioural problems (Williams et al, 2012)

Internalising

- Bargiela et al (2016): 'The Female Autism Phenotype'
    - Externalising e.g. hyperactivity and conduct problems
    - Internalising e.g. *anxiety and depression*

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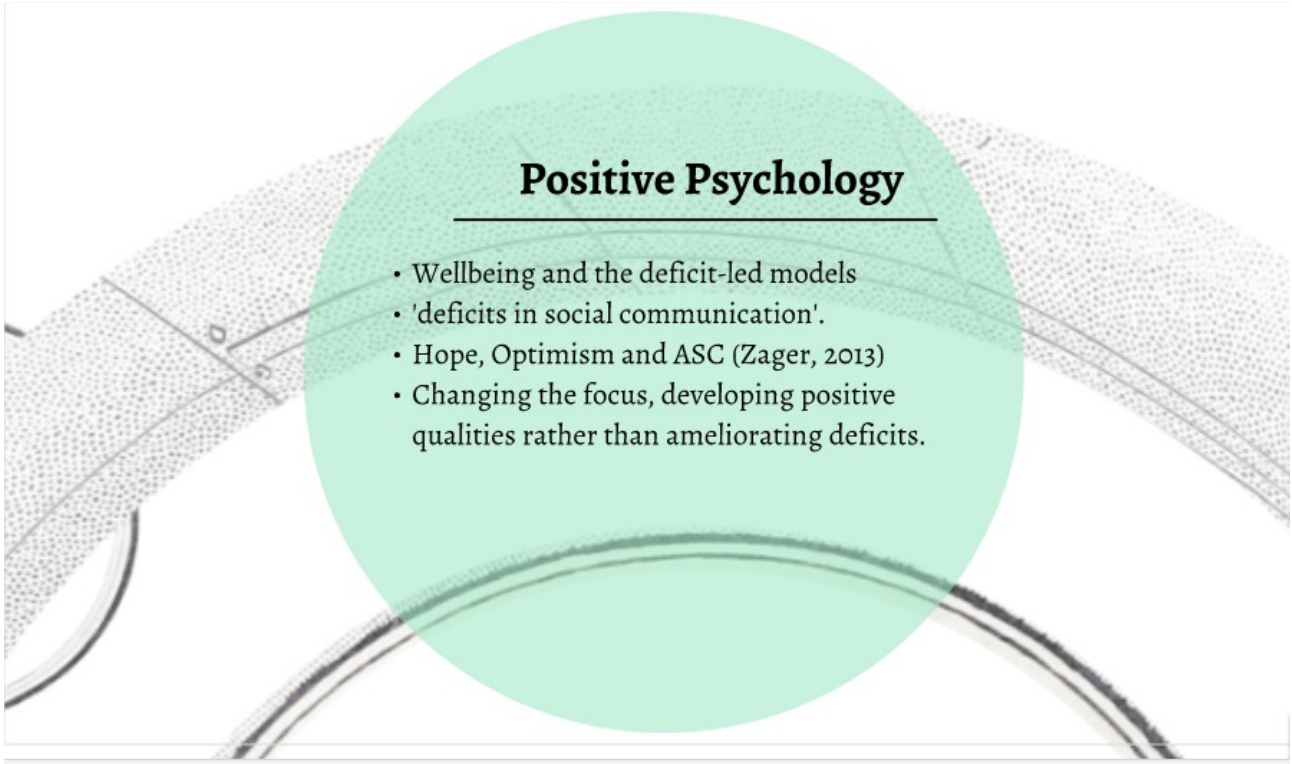
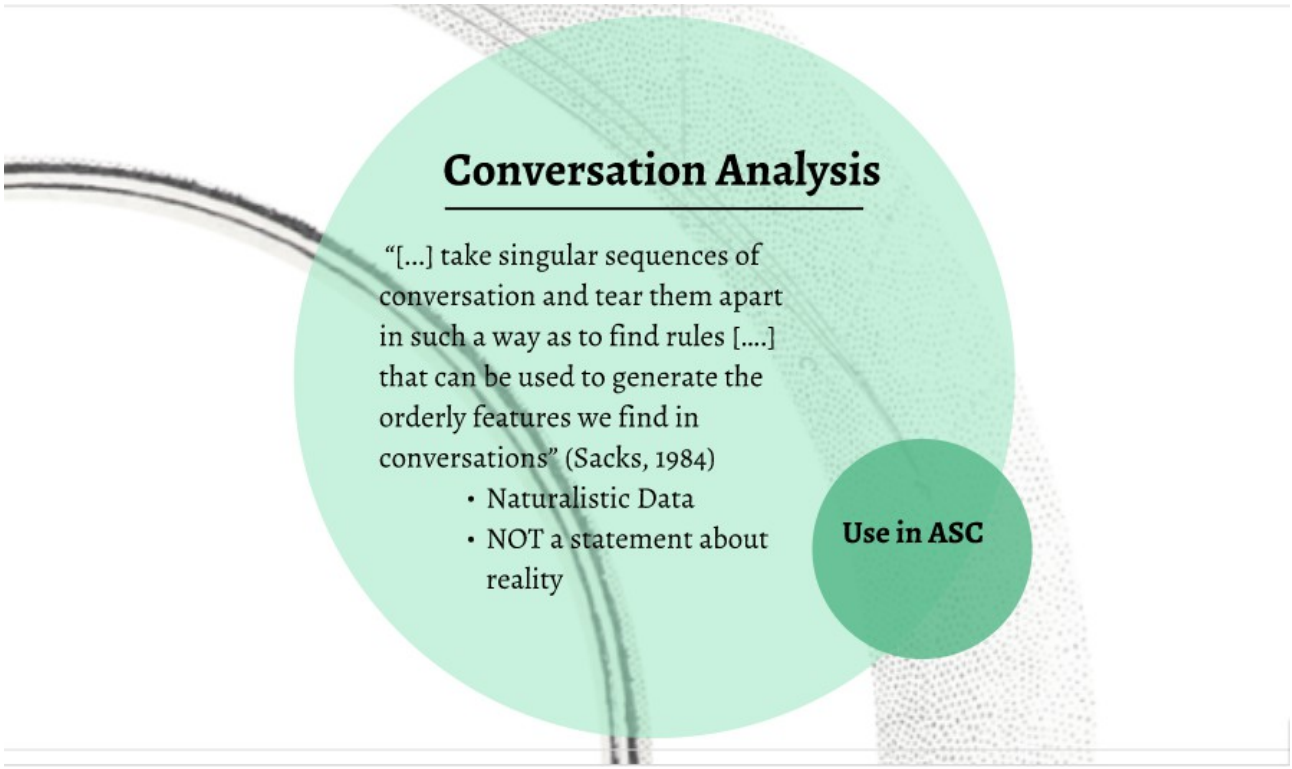
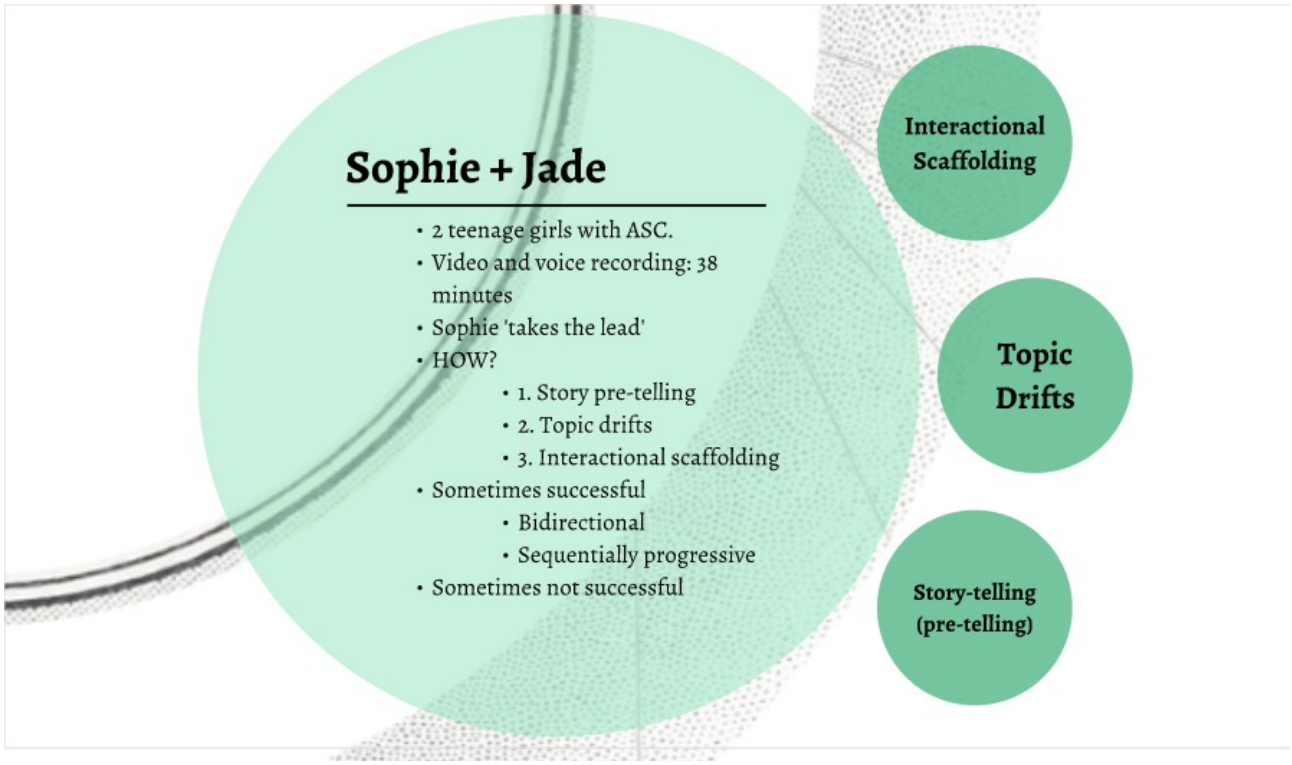
- Higher rates of social anxiety generally (Kuusiko, 2008)
- High rates of bullying associated with diagnosis (IAN, 2012)
- Higher rates of social isolation among girls with ASC (Solomon, 2012)

Adolescence as a girl with ASC

- Friendship quality changes in adolescence (Laursen and Hartup, 2002)
- Gender differences occur: 'talking' vs 'doing' (Nichols, 2009)
- Similar gender differences found in teenagers with ASC (Kuo, 2013)
- Differences in aggression: relational aggression (Cridland, 2014)
- Nonetheless, desire for and understanding of friendships (Foggo and Webster, 2016)




Conversation Analysis
"[...] take singular sequences of conversation and tear them apart in such a way as to find rules [....] that can be used to generate the orderly features we find in conversations" (Sacks, 1984)
• Naturalistic Data
• NOT a statement about reality
Use in ASC

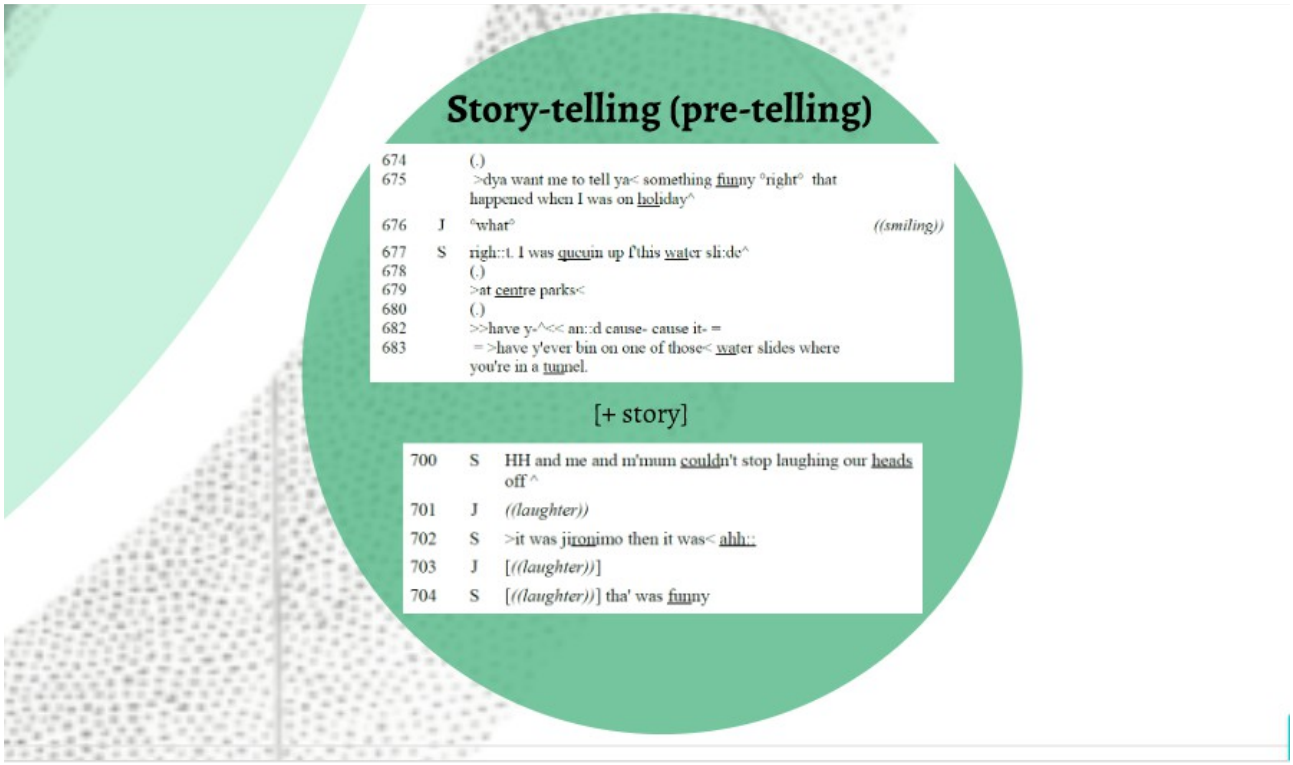

Sophie + Jade
• 2 teenage girls with ASC.
• Video and voice recording: 38 minutes
• Sophie 'takes the lead'
• HOW?
• 1. Story pre-telling
• 2. Topic drifts
• 3. Interactional scaffolding
• Sometimes successful
• Bidirectional
• Sequentially progressive
• Sometimes not successful
Interactional Scaffolding
Topic Drifts
Story-telling (pre-telling)

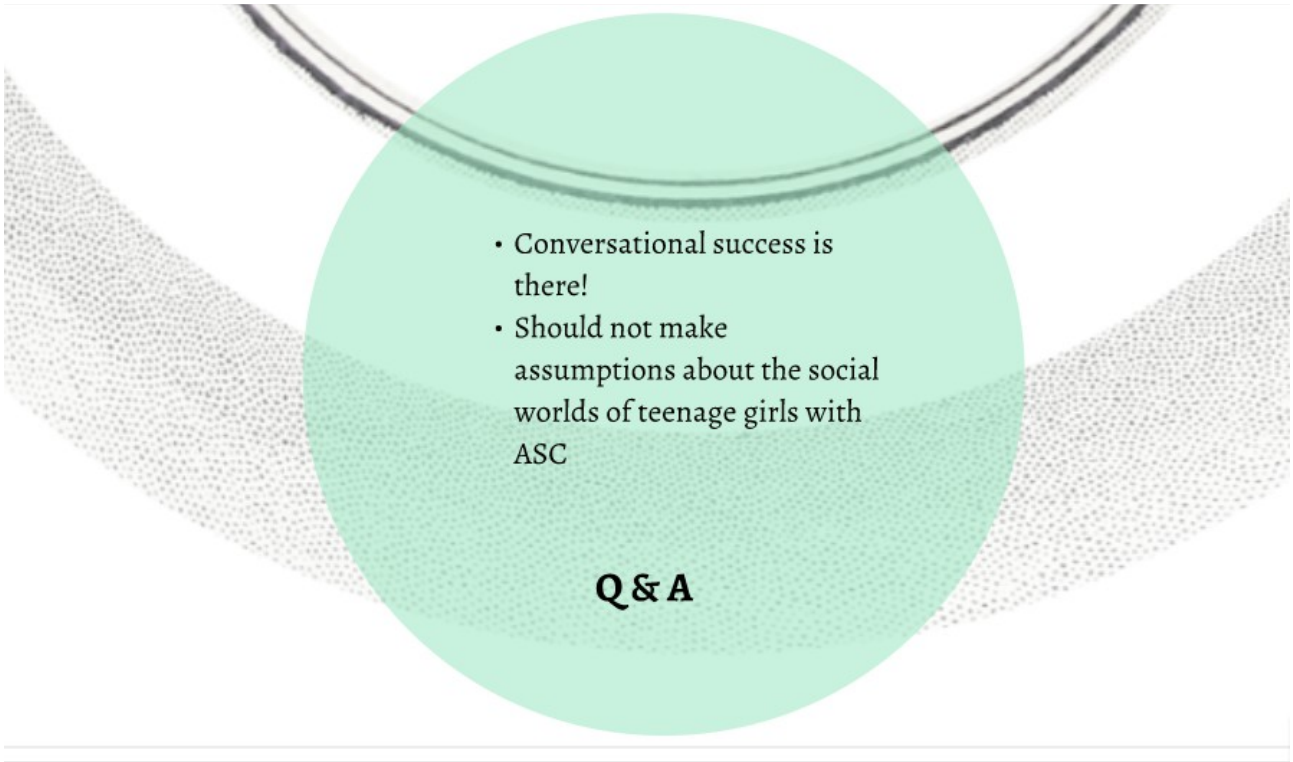
Interactional Scaffolding

924	S	wh-why which zipwire've you been on >where y- where you< don't hafta sit down.
925	J	°um° (.) I dunno^ if I know how t'descri:be it^
926		(.)
927		but basically: °um° I was harnessed °an then° #ah:# got s:trapped (.) [°clipped°]
928	S	[°were you°] at go a:pe.
929	J	wha:t? =
930	S	= cause go ape have zipwires as well as pa:rks =
931	J	= °no:∨° =
932	S	= °oh:∨°
933	J	(0.5)
934		I WENT t'robin wood .
935	S	(.)
936		oh that's near SHEERWOOD forest.
937		(0.5)

Topic Drifts

80	J	[I've al:]ways wanted to go: °like° it's my drea:m =
81	S	= >I want to go< =
82		= I haven't been abroad (.)since I was °like° ten (.) and THAT'S when we went to disneyland PARIS. =
83		= < And I weally> want to go abroad again (.) but I can::t b'cause I've a do:g and no one can look af^ter my dog. =
84		= >and my dog needs can- ke- g-< go to the kennels, °so I don't know°
85		(1.0)
86		Unless someone stays at home with my dog and I can go abroad∨
87		(.)
88		f'I go abroa:d again I have to get my passport updated^ and ge- get >my p-< my picture^ redone
89		(.) *((looks at J))*
90		I bet my passport needs re-date- °like° updating. =
91	J	=°yea[:h°


Story-telling (pre-telling)
674 (.)
675 >dya want me to tell ya< something funny °right° that happened when I was on holiday^
676 J °what° ((smiling))
677 S righ::t. I was queuin up f'this water sli:de^
678 (.)
679 >at centre parks<
680 (.)
682 >>have y-^<< an::d cause- cause it- =
683 =>have y'ever bin on one of those< water slides where you're in a tunnel.
[+ story]
700 S HH and me and m'mum couldn't stop laughing our heads off ^
701 J ((laughter))
702 S >it was jironimo then it was< ahh::
703 J [((laughter))]
704 S [((laughter))] tha' was funny


• Conversational success is there!
• Should not make assumptions about the social worlds of teenage girls with ASC
Q & A