

# "What Does Advocacy Look Like for Autistic Children From the Perspectives of Families and Service Providers"

Principal Investigator: Nakita Sydjij., RECE

## Background

- Shifting from deficit-based lens towards more **strengths-based neurodiversity affirming approach**; empowering **person-centred care**
- Capturing **"voice"** of 2 autistic children, 2 caregivers, a Board Certified Speech -Language Pathologist and a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst

## Action Reserch Design

### Plan

Edited Advocacy Toolkit

Multi Method; semi structured interviews and visual prompting

Two complete cycles of the Action Research cycle were completed

### Act

Created Advocacy Toolkit

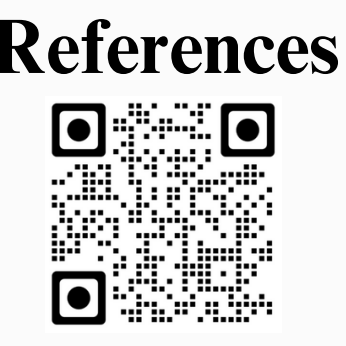
### Observe

### Reflect

Data analyzed using phenomenology of hermeneutics

## Implications

- **Increasing awareness, education and understanding** to reduce misconceptions about Autism
- **Alleviating challenges** faced when advocating in healthcare and school system
- **Positively impacting children's potential and self-image** through improved education and advocacy



**Deficitized**  
**Incompetent**  
**Incapable**  
**Marginalized**  
**Oppressed**  
**Subnormal**  
**Autistic inertia**

**The Autist**