



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
College of Education

Department of Special Education
Presents...

A Descriptive Study of Gesture Use Among Adolescents with Autism

This colloquium and guided discussion will be led by
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Doctoral Student, FAU Department of Special Education

Communication extends beyond spoken language, particularly for adolescents with autism. This presentation explores how four Bengali-speaking adolescents with autism used gestures to communicate. Two participants spoke Bengali and English, while two spoke only Bengali. During brief Zoom interviews, participants answered questions, described visual stories, and discussed favorite activities. Gestures were categorized into six types, revealing differences in how bilingual and monolingual participants used gestures, although both frequently used conventional gestures. Given the small sample and differences in age and gender, the findings are exploratory and cannot be generalized. The presentation connects these findings to practice, highlighting ways educators and therapists can recognize gestures as meaningful communication, honor students' home languages, collaborate with families, and support multimodal communication through speech, gestures, pictures, signs, and augmentative and alternative communication.



Friday, October 16, 2026
5:30 - 7 PM via Zoom

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3upd27z3>

These events are intended to foster a community of learners around special education honors, master's, and doctoral education. To learn more about our departments and its programs, please contact us here:
<https://tinyurl.com/rcyrbukf>

This event satisfies the Research Experience Requirement (RER) for EEX 2091 or EEX 4070 and is free to attend for COE and FAU students, faculty, staff, and community members.

If you need reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, contact Dr. Darling at sdarlin4@fau.edu, or TTY Relay Station 1-800-955-8770. Please make your needs known as soon as possible, preferably at least four business days prior to the event.