Supplementary Materials

Table S1: Similarities and Differences Between SM and ASD

Aspect	Selective Mutism (SM)	Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Social Difficulties	Difficulties in social interactions; individuals with SM tend to avoid speaking in specific social situations.	Difficulties in social interactions; individuals with ASD may feel uncomfortable in social situations.
Anxiety	Anxiety is a central component of SM; individuals often experience high anxiety in certain social settings.	Anxiety is common in ASD; individuals may also experience high anxiety, especially in social situations.
Communication Challenges	Challenges in communication; SM manifests as an inability to speak in specific environments.	Challenges in communication; difficulties can be broader, affecting comprehension, expression, body language, or intonation.
Nature of the Condition	Primarily an anxiety disorder; characterized by difficulty speaking in specific social settings despite normal speech ability elsewhere.	A neurodevelopmental condition affecting multiple domains, including communication, social interaction, and behavior.
Symptom Range	The main difficulty is speech inhibition due to anxiety in specific settings.	A broader spectrum of symptoms, including repetitive behaviors, difficulty understanding language and communication, and restricted interests.
Onset and Early Signs	Typically appears between ages 3–5 when a child is exposed to new social environments like preschool.	Can be identified as early as the first year of life, often with early communication and behavioral delays.
Speech Patterns	Children with SM speak normally in comfortable settings (e.g., at home).	Individuals with ASD may have delayed speech development, atypical language use, or difficulty with conversational reciprocity.
Underlying Causes	Primarily linked to social anxiety or environmental-emotional factors.	A combination of genetic, biological, and sometimes environmental factors.

Table S2: Basic Information and Developmental Background of the Four Girls

#	Name	Age	Educational Framework	Medical Background	Birth Weight (g)	Birth Week
1	Orly	7	Small class in regular setting	Normal pregnancy, normal course	2900	38
2	Betty	12	Small class in regular setting	Normal pregnancy, normal course	2000	34
3	Gali	10	Small class in regular setting	Normal pregnancy, normal course	2900	39
4	Dorit	14	Regular class	Normal pregnancy, normal course	3200	42

Table S3: Development and Function of the Four Girls

#	Name	Motor Development	Language Development	Strengths and Challenges
1	Orly	Received physiotherapy	First words after age two	Repetitive movements and sounds, rigid routine
2	Betty	Independent without walking aids	Slightly delayed first words, incomplete mother tongue	Hand flapping, speech anxiety
3	Gali	Received occupational therapy	First words at age one, no intonation	Pattern play with dolls
4	Dorit	Slightly clumsy	Speech delay, first words at age two	Sensitivity to noise, fixed routine

Table S4: Social Functioning and Diagnostic Assessment of the Four Girls

#	Name	Social Characteristics	Family	General Function (ABAS II) Normal range 90-110	SCQ Score Threshold 15	ADOS 2 Score Threshold 7-8
1	Orly	Introverted, difficulty forming connections, selective mutism	One brother with autism	53.0	24	15
2	Betty	Social with adults, shy with strangers	One sister with autism	42.0	12	13
3	Gali	Adaptation difficulties, anxiety, socially passive	Three siblings with autism	Not specified	19	13
4	Dorit	Avoids eye contact, social anxiety	Four siblings with autism and anxiety	43.0	28	20