Abstract
This article takes as its reference the contributions of cognitive psychology to the study of autism. In the first instance a description of the concepts of mental representation (Johnson-Laird 1983, 1987, 1990, Norman, 1983) and the metaphor of the brain as a computer (Tulving, 1937, 1950), was carried out. Subsequently, an in-depth study was made of the theory of the mind concept, with reference to the initial studies made by Premack and Woodruff (1978), Riviere (1987, 1991a, 1991b). Finally a description between the theory of the mind and autism based on the studies of Karner (1943), and Wing (1981) is presented. From the theory-theory, there are several psychological theories which try to explain the phenomenon of autism: the theory of mind blindness (Baron-Cohen, Leslie and Frith, 1985), that of the weakening of central coherence, Frith (2003), and the executive dysfunction theory (Russel, 2000 y Ozonoff, 2000). Another of Hobson’s theories (1995) proposes that the cognitive and social deficits in autism are of an affective nature. Finally, it is important to highlight that the deficient abilities in autism are very complex skills which depend not only on processes of planning and execution of mentalistic inferences, but of a coordination of many functions which act simultaneously.

Keywords
Cognitive science, theory of the mind, autistic disorder.