

Module: Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention

Evidence Base for Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention

The National Professional Development Center on ASD has adopted the following definition of evidence-based practices. To be considered an evidence-based practice for individuals with ASD, efficacy must be established through peer-reviewed research in scientific journals using:

- *randomized or quasi-experimental design studies*. Two high quality experimental or quasi-experimental group design studies,
- *single-subject design studies*. Three different investigators or research groups must have conducted five high quality single subject design studies, or
- *combination of evidence*. One high quality randomized or quasi-experimental group design study and three high quality single subject design studies conducted by at least three different investigators or research groups (across the group and single subject design studies).

High quality randomized or quasi experimental design studies do not have critical design flaws that create confounds to the studies, and design features allow readers/consumers to rule out competing hypotheses for study findings. High quality in single subject design studies is reflected by a) the absence of critical design flaws that create confounds and b) the demonstration of experimental control at least three times in each study. This definition and criteria are based on the following sources:

Horner, R., Carr, E., Halle, J., McGee, G., Odom, S., & Wolery, M. (2005). The use of single subject research to identify evidence-based practice in Special Education. *Exceptional Children*, 71, 165-180.

Nathan, P. & Gorman, J. M. (2002). *A guide to treatments that work*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Odom, S. L., Brantlinger, E., Gersten, R., Horner, R. D., Thompson, B., Harris, K. (2004). *Quality indicators for research in special education and guidelines for evidence-based practices: Executive summary*. Arlington, VA: Council for Exceptional Children Division for Research.

Rogers, S.J., & Vismara, L.A. (2008). Evidence based comprehensive treatments for early autism. *Journal of Child Clinical Psychology*, 37(1), 8-38.

Using these criteria, the empirical studies referenced below provide documentation for supporting peer mediated instruction and intervention as an evidence-based practice.

Preschoolers

Garfinkle, A.N., & Schwartz, I.S. (2002). Peer imitation: Increasing social interactions in children with autism and other developmental disabilities in inclusive preschool classrooms. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 22(1), 26-38.

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Goldstein, H., Kaczmarek, L., Pennington, R., & Shafer, K. (1992). Peer-mediated intervention: Attending to, commenting on, and acknowledging the behavior of preschoolers with Autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 25, 289-305.

Kohler, F. W., Strain, P. S., Hoyson, M., Davis, L., Donina, W. M., & Rapp, N. (1995). Using a group-oriented contingency to increase social interactions between children with autism and their peers: A preliminary analysis of corollary supportive behavior. *Behavior Modification*, 19, 10-32.

Odom, S. L., & Strain, P. S. (1986). A comparison of peer-initiation and teacher-antecedent interventions for promoting reciprocal social interactions of autistic preschoolers. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 19, 58-72.

Sainato, D. M., Goldstein, H., & Strain, P.S. (1992). Effects of self-evaluation on preschool children's use of social interaction strategies with their classmates with autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 25, 127-141.

Elementary and Middle School Age

Blew, P.A., Schwartz, I.S., & Luce, S.C. (1985). Teaching functional community-based skills to autistic children using nonhandicapped peer tutors. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 18, 337-342.

Garrison-Harrell, L., & Kamps, D. (1997). The effects of peer networks on social-communicative behaviors for students with autism. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 12(4), 241-255.

Haring, T. G., & Breen, C. G. (1992). A peer-mediated social network intervention to enhance the social integration of persons with moderate and severe disabilities. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 25, 319-334.

Laushey, K. M., Heflin, L. J. (2000). Enhancing social skills of kindergarten children with autism through the training of multiple peers as tutors. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 30, 183-193.

Lee, S., & Odom, S. L. (1996). The relationship between stereotypic behavior and peer social interactions for children with severe disabilities. *The Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps*, 21, 88-95. (Previously published in Korean.)

Lee, S., Odom, S. L., & Loftin, R. (2007). Social engagement with peers and stereotypic behavior of children with autism. *Journal of Positive Behavior Intervention*, 9, 67-79.

Thiemann, K.S., & Goldstein, H. (2004). Effects of peer training and written text cueing on social communication of school-age children with pervasive developmental disorder. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 47(1), 126-144.