



Joint Attention Training for Parents of Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

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PURPOSE

To increase early interventionists' competence in providing training in joint attention for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

TRAINING METHODS PHASE I

PHASE I: Learn about joint attention intervention

- ✓ Understanding & identifying joint attention
- ✓ Administering pre-intervention assessment
 - CSBS-DP (communication temptations)
 - Unstructured assessment
 - Family interview
- ✓ Selecting one of two evidence-based interventions to address joint attention
 - Schertz Model (relationship based)
 - Whalen and Schreibman Model (behaviorally based)
- ✓ Completing baseline
- ✓ Implementing intervention
- ✓ Administering post-intervention assessment
 - CSBS-DP (communication temptations)
 - Unstructured assessment

TRAINING METHODS PHASE II

PHASE II: Develop a professional resource module & inservice training

- Identify community needs in parent training related to joint attention
- Invite providers of young children with ASD to joint attention training
- Create ppt with embedded video showing examples of JA describing 2 intervention models
- Post ppt to the UVM VT-ILEHP website

TRAINING METHODS PHASE III

PHASE III: Outcomes

- JA Training Module & Annotated Bibliography posted at: www.uvm.edu/~vtilehp/autism
- 3 inservices in rural communities held on joint attention training with almost 90 participants representing the following areas:
 - Head Start & Early Head Start
 - Administrators
 - Community SLPs, OTs, PTs, COTAs & SLPs
 - Home visitors
 - Early childhood/Special Educators
 - Families
 - Paraeducators



PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

- Parent training increases parents' confidence & enjoyment in playing with their child
- Training framework provides a template for developing & implementing parent intervention across areas of communication, social interaction & play
- Training choices provide options for families that are responsive to their individual cultures, styles and environments
- Joint attention is foundational to social connection and communication
- Evidence-based interventions can be taught and implemented in the home setting

NEXT STEPS & FUTURE RESEARCH

Increase the level of Family Support provided in the Joint Attention Project

- Provide a participant packet including an explanation of the practicum for families to read
- Provide a structured orientation for participating families

Increase the time devoted to the intervention period

- Increase intervention weeks from 8 weeks to a period of up to 21 weeks

Follow-up considerations

- Add measures to examine maintenance
- Survey interventionists to identify continued use of the intervention methodologies employed in the project

SELECTED REFERENCES

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