Expanding our reach: HRSA CARES research networks

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Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health

Uniqueness

HRSA RN

AIR-B

Intervention Examples

1 2 3

Uniqueness

HRSA RN

1 2 3
Uniqueness of HRSA research networks......

“Most of the subjects were White and middle class”

Autism Research today......
Review of ‘evidence based practices’
>80% studies did not report ethnicity: Of the ones reporting race, 63.5 percent were White
West, E et al 2016, Journal of Special Education
No shortage of marketed interventions for ASD

Most children with ASD have never been in a research study

AND MOST INTERVENTIONS have never been tested in any controlled study;

The ‘evidence-base’ does not reflect most children in the community (Weisz, 2004)

HRSA AIR-B goals...

1. Increase early identification, access to effective interventions for under-resourced, under-represented children with ASD and their families

2. Use community partnered methods to increase reach, effectiveness and sustainability of interventions

AIR-B Intervention Examples

1 2 3

Uniqueness

HRSA RN
Today’s intervention landscape

LAUSD…
Students with ASD
2nd largest school district;
14,000 students with ASD

District as a whole is.....
75% Hispanic;
80% free & reduced lunch;
9% White

Disparities are real…..

Public schools should be place
without disparities in services
AIR-B leadership network of academic-community partnership
Focus on low resourced community settings, particularly schools…all children go to school

AIR-B has completed several randomized trials

1. Parent mediated intervention in homes
2. School based intervention for school staff

Example study 1

Information Sharing   Hands on Coaching
Provided autism specific parent mediated intervention to preschoolers in homes
Parent Mediated Interventions

Child initiated joint engagement

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RCT-Comparative Efficacy, Multi-site
N=112

Parent Mediated Intervention--Preschoolers

- 112 children (2-5 year olds)
  - Low resource (half no services, low income)
  - 66% ethnic minority, 15% non-English speaking
- Comparison 2 parent interventions
- In home intervention or neighborhood group
- 24 sessions over 12 weeks
- 3 month follow up

JASPER group

- Joint engagement
- Symbolic play
- Initiating JA

Example study 2: Social difficulties at school

- Interacting, getting along with peers
- Developing friendships
Measuring peer relationships at school

Social Networks at School

Social networks reveal consistent findings across multiple studies

Most are peripheral to the main social groups, just loosely attached to others

Based on work of Cairns & Cairns

Social networks reveal consistent findings across multiple studies

Most are peripheral to the main social groups, just loosely attached to others
Several randomized trials conducted in schools

Example study 2
Michelle Dean
Mark Kretzmann
Jill Locke
AIR-B Trainees

Paraprofessional mediated intervention during recess

Playground specific intervention
Paraprofessionals can improve child engagement on the playground (6 weeks)

(Kretzmann, Shih & Kasari, 2014)

Air-B Intervention Examples

1. Uniqueness
2. HESA RN
3. Next Steps

Can we improve on deployment? Increase sustainability?

Community partnered participatory research

(Jones & Wells, 2007)
Engagement intervention for low resourced families of newly diagnosed children with ASD

Intervention for maintaining services between major schooling transitions