

A074 HSCI

Preferred in-home parent-mediated strategies for children with non-speaking autism spectrum disorder: A mixed-methods study

Abstract

Introductory Statement-Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have difficulties in multiple areas of occupation, including activities of daily living, sleep, education, and play. Occupational therapy interventions are shown to help foster sensory, motor, cognitive, social, and communication skills in autistic children who are non-speaking. To continue to benefit this population it is critical for occupational therapists to gather data on the interventions and strategies that parents prefer to use to address sensory needs during their everyday activities, particularly within the home setting.

Purpose-Parent-mediated programs are used to benefit the child, with the primary caregiver learning skills or techniques to bring about change in the child's daily life and development. Parent-led interventions are less expensive, increase generalization of learning across environments, and are associated with improved skill maintenance over time. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine what the preferred parent-mediated strategies are, and what improvements they report in their child's ADL participation in the home.

Methodological Approach-A mixed-methods study using a quantitative and qualitative survey that includes check-all-that-apply, multiple-choice, open-ended questions, and an ordinal ranking scale. The format will be a web based Qualtrics survey tool.

Findings-Researchers are still in the data collection process and findings will be reported in the poster presentation.

Contribution to Discipline-This research will build upon evidence to support using parent mediated strategies that can also be used within the practice of occupational therapy. These findings can aid both parents and clinicians in better understanding the preferred parent-mediated strategies used within this population.

Professional Writing-We do plan to submit for publication following completion of data collection and analysis.