

Study: A Pilot Investigation of Emergent Multi-Class Imitation Training

Investigators

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Purpose

Many children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have difficulty learning to imitate. Imitation is important because it helps children learn new skills like communication and social skills. The purpose of our research study is to evaluate a comprehensive intervention protocol designed to rapidly teach imitation to young children diagnosed with an ASD.

Eligibility criteria (all formal testing will be conducted by research staff)

- Diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder
- Age 5 or under
- Minimally vocal (shows at least one functional vocalization/approximation and spontaneously exhibits at least 6 different sounds)
- Maximum score of 40 on Motor Vocal Imitation Assessment
- Maximum raw score of 36 on Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test™ Fifth Edition
- Demonstrates identity matching above chance levels

Benefits to Participants

1. Participants will receive high-quality, evidence-based imitation training
2. Participants will have their imitation skills regularly assessed to monitor the emergence of generalized imitation
3. All information yielded from this investigation will be shared with participants' families and clinical teams

Location: Various locations in New Jersey

Time commitment: Approximately 5-10 hours per week during intervention

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