

EI Recommendations

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Record ID

6

ECHO Autism Early Intervention

Ages 0-8 Years

Recommendations Form

**Brett Moore, DO; Brittney Stevenson, MOT, OTR/L;
Michelle Dampf, MA, CCC-SLP; Laura Barnes, MS, BCBA, LBA;
Michelle Haynam, MS Ed.**

Email our clinic coordinator **Sarah Towne** at sarahtowne@health.missouri.edu if you have any questions or comments.

PLEASE NOTE: Project ECHO case consultations do not create or otherwise establish a provider-patient relationship between any UMH clinician and any patient whose case is being presented in a Project ECHO setting.

Presenting Provider Name: Karen Reckamp

ECHO ID: EI0048

Presentation date: 12-11-2023

Presenting Question:

See Below

Additional Identified Concerns:

Questions for the team:

1. What training or competencies are required for your clinical staff who work with this population? What does onboarding look like for a new clinician? OT, PT, SLP
2. What outcome measures are being used for 5 and under? 6 and older?
3. What evidence-based treatment approaches are other programs using? (DIR floortime, ESDM, ...)
4. How and when is ABA being utilized?
 - a. In isolation, in combination with other services?
 - b. What are the criteria for a child to receive ABA services?
5. What parent training strategies are being used/coaching models
 - a. Are staff trained in the use of motivational interviewing?
 - b. Do staff receive formal training on patient-family-centered care practices and coaching techniques?
6. How are other practices addressing neurodiversity-affirming beliefs? Resistance to ABA?
7. If you had unlimited resources, what would the ideal program look like?

After review of information provided and discussion of the case, the following

recommendations are provided:

1)

- I've attached the CASP guidelines that outline more specifics about ABA programs and structure. This may answer a lot of the ABA-specific questions. (can also be accessed here: <https://www.casproviders.org/asd-guidelines>)

- Re: criteria for receiving ABA services: Every ABA clinic or provider may have different policies about what qualifies a child for ABA therapy (e.g., age, level of challenging behaviors, diagnosis). In Missouri, a child has to have a diagnosis of autism before we can bill insurance for ABA therapy; that may be the only requirement for some providers here while others may have additional requirements. Overall, as long as there is a socially significant, medically necessary (as defined by the insurance) goal for therapy, ABA therapy may be appropriate.

- Re: Resistance to ABA: Empowering parents AND therapists to talk to Behavior Analysts, engage in conversations about, and ask questions is the best tool! Just like any other profession, not all ABA providers will be a good fit for every family and that is ok. I recommend talking to lots of different providers, visiting the facilities, and advocating for what is most important to their child and family. Here is a good list of questions for parents to ask potential ABA providers, if they are hesitant or worried: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/getting-started-aba-asking-right-questions>.

- If staff training, turnover, and consistency is an issue within their clinic and across their different locations, considering an in-house "trainer" position to oversee their initial and ongoing training may be worth it. Having all your clinical expectations and regulations written down in a clear and accessible manner and having the trainer assist in the implementation of these programs across clinics may help reduce some of the subjectivity and issues with some assessments and outcomes measurement not being implemented consistently. (This trainer role could even be an existing staff member with a reduced caseload.)

2)

- Reach out to local state organizations for supporting disciplines (SLP, OT) and collect some data on potential legislation/healthcare policy that could impact future provision of services.
- Explore use of Goal Attainment Scaling for outcome measures. This does require a training to be used in a standardized way but it's an excellent tool to show change over shorter periods of time in a family-centered way. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/13623613211024492> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358457/>

3)

- I have always tried to communicate with primary care providers if there are any concerns for autism so that they can screen as well. I have a pretty completed note that you could then send if there are concerns.

- For kids older than 30 months he may want to consider doing the social communication questionnaire instead of the M-CHAT.

- Here are the links for the 2 websites I listed for evidence-based resources: <https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/evidence-based-practices> and <https://asatonline.org/for-parents/learn-more-about-specific-treatments/>

- If families are struggling with understanding resources, I had referred them either to their primary physician or the autism center that is following the child as sometimes those offices will have resource coordinators.

- looking at what goals they are trying to accomplish to decide what services would be best to focus on or what resources they need to have on hand for families.

4)

here is a link to Missouri's Early Childhood Outcomes that might give them thoughts.

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/quality-programs/preschool-programs/early-childhood-special-education/early-childhood-outcomes-training>

5)

6)

7)

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12)

The following toolkits/resources may be helpful:

General ASD Information

A Parents Guide to Autism

- A Grand Parents Guide to Autism
- 100-Day Kit

Medical

- Managing Constipation Guide
- Dental Guide
- Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism
- Sleep Strategies Guide
- Sleep Strategies for Teens Guide
- A Parent's Guide to Toilet Training

Medications

- Melatonin Guide
- Medication Decision Aid for Parents
- Safe Medication Toolkit

Behavior

- ADHD Resources- https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Centers/ADHD_Resource_Center/Home.aspx
- Anxiety Strategies Guide
- A Parent's Guide to Applied Behavior Analysis
- Behavioral Health Treatment Guide
- Challenging Behaviors Tool Kit
- Haircutting Training Guide
- A Parent's Guide to Pica
- Visual Supports

Adolescent/Transition

- Healthy Bodies for Boys
- Healthy Bodies for Girls
- Puberty and Adolescent Guide

Safety

- Big Red Safety Toolkit

Financial

- Financial Resources in Missouri
- Financial Planning Tool Kit

Websites

- Autism Navigator - www.autismnavigator.com
- Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers - <https://www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/videos/index.html>
- OCALI - www.ocali.org
- Learn the Signs Act Early - <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Additional comments and recommendations:

We recommend that you present this case again in:

Signature: *Brittney Stevenson, MOT, OTR/L ; Michelle Dampf, MA, CCC-SLP*

Date:

Form Status

Complete?