Pivotal Response Training
Fact Sheet

**Brief Description**

Pivotal response training (PRT) is a naturalistic intervention based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to teach learners with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). PRT builds on learner initiative and interests, and is particularly effective for developing communication, language, play, and social behaviors. PRT was developed to create a more efficient and effective intervention by enhancing pivotal learning variables: motivation, responding to multiple cues, self-management, and self-initiations of social interactions. According to theory, these skills are pivotal because they are the foundational skills upon which learners with ASD can make widespread and generalized improvements in many other areas. Key procedures include child choice, reinforcement of attempts, incorporation of maintenance tasks, and direct/natural reinforcers contingent on appropriate behavior.

**Qualifying Evidence**

PRT meets evidence-based criteria with 1 group design and 7 single case design studies.

**Ages**

According to the evidence-based studies, this intervention has been effective for toddlers (0-2 years) to middle school-age learners (12-14 years) with ASD.

**Outcomes**

PRT can be used effectively to address social, communication, joint attention, and play skills.

**Research Studies Providing Evidence**


**Pivotal Response Training Fact Sheet—suggested citation**


Adapted from: