

Naturalistic Intervention Fact Sheet

Brief Description

Naturalistic intervention (NI) is a collection of practices including environmental arrangement, interaction techniques, and strategies based on applied behavior analysis principles. These practices are designed to encourage specific target behaviors based on learners' interests by building more complex skills that are naturally reinforcing and appropriate to the interaction. Naturalistic intervention occurs within typical settings, activities, and/or routines in which the learner participates.

Qualifying Evidence

NI meets evidence-based criteria with 10 single case design studies.

Ages

According to the evidence-based studies, this intervention has been effective for toddlers (0-2 years) to elementary school-age learners (6-11 years) with ASD.

Outcomes

NI can be used effectively to address social, communication, behavior, joint attention, play, and academic skills.

Research Studies Providing Evidence

Hancock, T. B., & Kaiser, A. P. (2002). The effects of trainer-implemented enhanced milieu teaching on the social communication of children with autism. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, 22*(1), 39-54. doi: 10.1177/027112140202200104

Ingersoll, B., Dvortcsak, A., Whalen, C., & Sikora, D. (2005). The effects of a developmental, social—Pragmatic language intervention on rate of expressive language production in young children with autistic spectrum disorders. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, 20*(4), 213-222. doi: 10.1177/10883576050200040301

Koegel, L. K., Carter, C. M., & Koegel, R. L. (2003). Teaching children with autism self-initiations as a pivotal response. *Topics in Language Disorders, 23*(2), 134-145. doi: 10.1097/00011363-200304000-00006

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- McGee, G. G., & Daly, T. (2007). Incidental teaching of age-appropriate social phrases to children with autism. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities, 32*(2), 112-123. doi: 10.2511/rpsd.32.2.112
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- Whalen, C., & Schreibman, L. (2003). Joint attention training for children with autism using behavior modification procedures. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 44*(3), 456-468. doi: 10.1111/1469-7610.00135

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