



Department of Psychology Colloquium

Comparisons of Intensive Behavior Analytic and Eclectic Interventions for Young Children with Autism: Findings and Implications

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1220 Chem Building

We compared the effects of three years of intensive behavior analytic intervention (IBT) provided to 29 young children diagnosed with autism with two eclectic (i.e., mixed-method) interventions (Howard et al., 2005, 2014). At their final assessment, children who received IBT were more than twice as likely to score in the normal range on measures of cognitive, language, and adaptive functioning than were children who received either form of eclectic intervention. Although the largest improvements for children in the IBT group generally occurred during Year 1, many children in that group whose scores were below the normal range after the first year of intervention attained scores in the normal range of functioning with one or two years of additional intervention. These results provide further evidence that intensive behavior analytic intervention delivered at an early age is more likely to produce substantial improvements in young children with autism than common eclectic interventions, even when the latter are intensive. Implications for researchers and clinicians, including ways to communicate results to different stakeholders, are discussed.