

PCIT AND AUTISM: LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

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A Brief Look at PCIT and ASD Research





PCIT and ASD Research: What We (sort of) Know

Core PCIT Outcomes (gateway)

- ▣ Improved parenting behaviors (7)
- ▣ Increased child compliance (6)
- ▣ High parent satisfaction (4)
- ▣ Decrease in frequency of disruptive behaviors (7)

PCIT and ASD Research: What We (sort of) Know

Secondary PCIT Outcomes

- ▣ Expressive/receptive language improvements (3)
- ▣ Parenting stress (3)
- ▣ Improvement in shared parent-child positive affect (1)
- ▣ Parent perception of child adaptability (2)
- ▣ Less reported autism-related symptoms (1)

PCIT and ASD Research: Where We Are (hopefully) Going

Research:

- Larger N's
 - ▣ Total Subjects: ~79
- RCT's
- Effectiveness Trials

Outcome Measures:

- Emotional availability
- Social skills
- Language capabilities
- Joint attention
- Constructive Play
- Adaptive Functioning

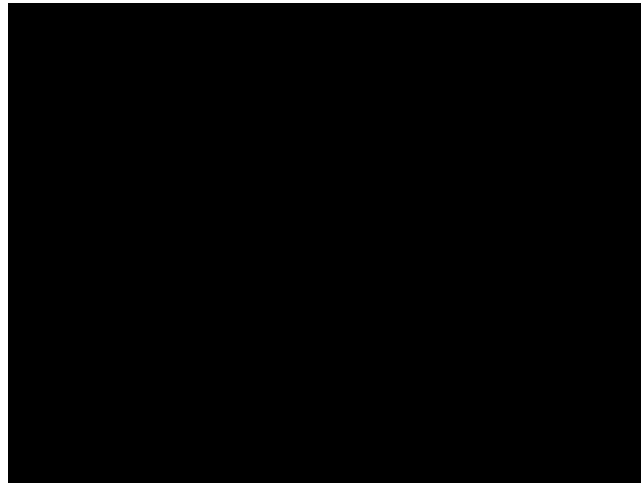


PCIT and ASD: Imitation



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Imitation in Action



Imitation: What's the Story?

Possible Conclusions:

- “What can you do with this?”
- CDI skills enhanced the p-c relationship/more interest in parent's activities
- Recognize/praise imitative behaviors
- More special play time = more constructive play skills
- Natural maturation

PCIT and ASD: Labeled Praises



Thanks to Dr. Christy Warner-Metzger for LP slides!

ASD Symptoms: DSM-IV-TR	Positive Opposite Behaviors
Impairment in use of nonverbal behaviors Eye contact Facial expression Body postures Gestures	Good job looking at me.
Failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level	Good job playing with your brother.
Lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with others Lack of showing Lack of bringing Lack of pointing out objects of interest	Thank you for showing me your toy. I like how you brought your shoe to me. Thank you for pointing to the toy on the shelf.
No social or emotional reciprocity	I like it when we play together/share.

ASD Target Behaviors: ADOS (Modules 1 &2)	Praises
Response to name	Thank you for looking at me when I said your name.
Response to touch from others	I like it when you let me hug you/hold your hand.
Response to joint attention (follows another's gaze with or without accompanied pointing)	Good job looking at what I'm looking at.
Affect	I like it when you smile.
Initiate joint attention	Thanks for getting my attention. I like how you got me to look at the toy.
Shared enjoyment	I like it when we play together.
Requesting	I like how you asked with your words/hands
Smiling in response to calling in a way that implies physical contact (e.g., "I'm gonna get you!")	I like how you're smiling at me.
Gestures directed at others Points with index finger Open-handed reach Hands item to another person	Thank you for pointing/reaching. Thank you for handing me the toy.
Facial expressions directed at others	I like how you're smiling at me.
Gaze directed at others	I like it when you look at me.
Imitation of familiar actions	I like how you're doing what I'm doing.

PCIT and ASD: Stereotyped Behaviors



PCIT and ASD: Visual Cues



Final words

- Start with “pure” PCIT first
 - “Flexibility within fidelity”
- Don’t begin your PCIT life with ASD cases
 - “Snowflakes”
- PCIT and ASD is already happening---clinicians and researchers need to stay in touch

