Effectiveness of PCIT in Children with Autism: A Case Study

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In recent years, Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) has been applied in a variety of settings and to a variety of special cases. The purpose of the present case study was to examine the effectiveness of PCIT in a child with autism. A young boy and his family pursued PCIT for the treatment of his oppositional-defiant behavior, which was complicated by his autism. PCIT was administered and adapted to meet his unique situation, resulting in completion of both the CDI and PDI components at mastery level, as well as graduation from the program. Coding sheets completed throughout the treatment demonstrate the effectiveness of PCIT with this child. This case study supports the growing literature that PCIT can successfully be used to treat children with autism behavioral difficulties.

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