Factors Influencing the Quality of Behavior Intervention Plans For Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Introduction

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is associated with maladaptive behaviors that may interfere with student learning.
- The individuals with Disabilities Education Act states a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) must be developed and implemented based on the outcome of a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) for any student with a disability who engages in behaviors that impede their learning or the learning of others.
- The research on FBAs and BIPs provide specific recommendations as to what should be included in a BIP; yet there is a paucity of research investigating the quality of BIPs for students with ASD.
- This study sought to evaluate the quality of BIPs developed for children and adolescents with ASD at an autism clinic and to determine factors associated with high-quality BIPs.

Methods

Participants (N=60) children and adolescents with ASD
- Age: 4-18 (Mean=9.9 years), Males (n=32), Females (n=28)

Procedures
- BIPs (N=60) written for children with ASD evaluated at a community autism clinic were randomly selected from three District Region Groups (DRGs) to reflect high (DRG 1), medium (DRG 2), and low (DRG 3) SES groups in Connecticut (n=20 per group).
- The Behavior Support Plan Quality Evaluation Guide-II (BSP-QEI) was used to assess BIP quality, as its items correspond to the most highly recommended elements for inclusion in BIPs.
- Two raters rated the BIPs, resulting in a BSP-QEI total score that fell into the following categories: weak, underdeveloped, good, or superior, as specified by the BSP-QEI.
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- Raters also noted whether the BIP author was a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) and whether an FBA was conducted to inform the development of each BIP.

Results

BIP Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIP Authors</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>BCBA</th>
<th>Non-BCBAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>7 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCBA</td>
<td>33 (55%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-BCBAs</td>
<td>20 (33%)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
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BCBAs per District Region Group (DRG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRG 1</th>
<th>DRG 2</th>
<th>DRG 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 (30.3%)</td>
<td>14 (42.4%)</td>
<td>9 (27.3%)</td>
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</tbody>
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BIPs not based on FBA:

- 18 (30%)
- 42 (70%)

Function/Summary/Hypothesis Statement from FBA

- Included in BIP: 25 (60%)
- Not Included in BIP: 17 (40%)

Timeframe between FBA and BIP development

- 0-3 months: 25 (66%)
- 3-6 months: 2 (5%)
- 6-9 months: 2 (5%)
- 9-12 months: 3 (8%)
- >12 months: 6 (16%)