Module: Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention

Overview of Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention


Peer-mediated instructional approaches are used to teach typically developing peers ways to interact with and help children and youth with ASD acquire new social skills by increasing social opportunities within natural environments. With PMII, peers are carefully and systematically taught ways of engaging children and youth with ASD in positive and extended social interactions in both teacher-directed and learner-initiated activities (English et al., 1997; Odom et al., 1999; Strain & Odom, 1986).

Evidence
PMII meets criteria for being an evidence-based practice within the early childhood and elementary age groups for the social domain (early childhood, n = 5 single subject; elementary, n = 7 single subject). Only one study met criteria in the middle/high school age group.

With what ages is PMII effective?
PMII can be implemented with pairs or small groups of learners across the age range starting in preschool and extending through high school. With young children (i.e., 3 to 8 years of age), practitioners can use peer-initiation training, or a buddy approach, to help learners with ASD acquire important social skills. Social networking strategies are more appropriate for older learners (i.e., 9 to 18 years of age). PMII has been shown to have positive effects on academic, interpersonal, and personal-social development, and may be the largest and most empirically supported type of social intervention for learners with ASD (Bass & Mulick, 2007; Maheady, Harper, & Mallette, 2001; McConnell, 2002).

What skills or intervention goals can be addressed by PMII?
PMII targets social skills that include the following: responding to others, reciprocity, understanding others, and interacting with others or in groups.

In what settings can PMII be effectively used?
PMII has been used effectively in clinical and school-based settings across preschool to high school age groups. PMII is intended to be used as part of the daily curriculum through a balance of teacher-directed and learner-initiated interactions and activities.
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Evidence Base

Preschoolers


Elementary and Middle School Age


Module: Peer-Mediated Instruction and Intervention


Additional References


