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Editorial

Robert L. Koegel and Glen Dunlap

The Effects of an Accelerated Parent Education Program on Technique Mastery and Child Outcome: Program Demonstration

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Training parents of children with autism as treatment providers for their own children is now understood to be an essential component of successful treatment programs. Although most parent training programs have been successful overall in teaching parents to use specific techniques, they are often time consuming and costly, and some parents continue to have difficulty learning and implementing techniques at home. The current project assessed the addition of a parent education/support group to an accelerated parent training for a period of 12 weeks. One group also attended a weekly parent education/support group. Parent mastery of the parent training techniques and children's language skills were assessed before and after training. Results indicate that inclusion of a parent education/support group in a parent training program may increase parent mastery of teaching techniques and success of accelerated programming and in turn, increase children's language success. Limitations and implications of this clinical research study are discussed.