Addressing social, emotional, and organizational goals for a child with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using the Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) approach

Gina M. Czmowski, Shea L. Willert, and Sarah K. Nielsen University of North Dakota

Children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) have social, emotional, and organizational skill deficits which are frequently addressed through behavioralbased skills training. However, these approaches often do not result in generalization of skills. This case study sought to understand if the Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP), a problem-solving approach, is effective for addressing social, emotional, and organizational goals with a child with an ASD. Pre and post-intervention assessments indicated an improvement on all three client-centered goals, with the client transferring his goals and problem-based strategies to the community. Analysis of video recordings of the intervention sessions indicated the global strategies of Goal-Plan-Do-Check were effective, with the participant spending most time in "plan." A majority of the domain specific strategies did not apply to this case study. Additionally, the participant utilized "verbal guidance by therapist" most often and spent a majority of dimension of time on task "talking about the task."

Keywords: autism spectrum disorders, cognitive strategies, socialemotional and organizational goals, case study