

Therapist eLearning

1) Nature of the intervention:

Therapist eLearning: The therapist eLearning is intended for entry-level professionals who will be delivering evidence-based behavioral skill acquisition and challenging behavior reduction services directly to individuals with autism. The purpose of the intervention is to train staff in academic knowledge of all major treatment components that comprise behavioral intervention for individuals with autism. This training is intended to supplement or replace the didactic, lecture-based component of staff training. Any staff who work with individuals with autism in the home, school, hospital, residential, or community settings are appropriate for this training. The outcome measures used to assess the effects of the training include written tests after each module and a final written examination at the end of the training.

2) Training details:

The video run time of the Therapist eLearning is 14 hours, but as this is a self-paced training, and includes quizzes and note taking the completion time varies but will take the average user approximately 20 hours to complete. The eLearning is broken down into 9 lessons with a quiz given at the completion of each module. After completing all modules and quizzes, users will take a final exam which covers all 9 lessons. The modules are viewed in a video format with note taking capabilities and quizzes throughout. To view the eLearning, you must use a computer with internet access and have speakers. In addition you will need Flash installed on your computer to view the modules.

a. Trainer:

All trainings are provided by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Sometimes a narrator is used to read the script and presentation that was created by the BCBA.

b. Trainees:

This is an entry-level training. It is recommended as a foundational training on aspects of Applied Behavioral Analysis for paraprofessionals, therapists, or teachers. There are no educational requirements to take this eLearning training, although a Bachelor's level degree in behavior analysis, psychology or other educational or human services field may be helpful.

c. Frequency and location of training:

eLearning trainings can be done at anytime from anywhere.

d. Train the trainer:

eLearning is a great companion training to field training. The purpose of eLearning, is to supplement or replace the need for an in-person trainer.

e. Manual:

A companion manual is currently being developed, but is not available at this time.

3) Evidence-base for the intervention:

The training system is a web-based adaptation of teaching procedures that are a standard component of staff training across virtually all disciplines: lecture with multiple examples, video demonstrations, case examples, and quizzes to test for mastery of each component before trainees progress to other components. Two studies have been published showing that the therapist eLearning is effective in establishing academic knowledge of all major components of behavioral intervention for children with autism. Granpeesheh, Tarbox, Dixon, Peters, Thompson, and Kenzer (2010) compared the effectiveness of the eLearning system to standard in-person training and found that it produced similar increases in knowledge. Jang, Dixon, Tarbox, Granpeesheh, and de Nocker (2012) assessed the effectiveness of the same system for training parents of children with ASD and found that it was effective in establishing knowledge of evidence-based treatment procedures in parents.

4) Provisions for cultural adaptation:

The focus of the Therapist eLearning is on general ABA terminology and techniques. Versions are in production in different languages.

5) Contact information:

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