Poster Presentation P30

THE EFFECTS OF A PARENT-CHILD COMMUNICATION INTERVENTION ON THE WORRIES OF SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

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This study is designed to assess the effects of two different parent-child activities on the siblings of children with autism. Existing research suggests that the experience of having an autistic child in the family is highly variable and may have negative outcomes for the typical sibling. The difficulty in predicting sibling outcome may be caused by the lack of a theoretical framework organizing the factors hypothetically affecting sibling coping abilities, therefore a stress and coping model of siblings of children with autism is provided. Currently, there has been only limited information reporting successful intervention efforts for this population. This study attempts to correct many of the limitations of previous sibling intervention studies by including a larger sample size, objective measures, a control group, and parental involvement in the intervention. Participants are siblings of children with autism and their parents. This study uses a between groups design to evaluate the worries of sibling of children with autism after a brief one-time intervention. One group will complete a workbook focused on autism-specific worries, while another group of parent-child pairs will play games together. The children in each group will complete a questionnaire about their autism-related worries at the end of the activity.