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Research:

Raising Children Network: *Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a behavioral type of therapy claimed to improve social, communication and academic skills and skills for daily living, and decreases difficult behaviour. The ABA theory identifies various teaching techniques that generally involve breaking down complex skills (or behaviors) into smaller steps and teaching them through the use of clear instructions, rewards and repetition. Research has shown established positive results however the therapy is high intensity that is required for effectiveness.*

ABA approach and its techniques can help children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) learn new ways of interacting with others, improve academically and use the skills they learn in different settings – for example, at home, school and in the community.

Given the variation in how ABA is applied, outcomes of specific programs need to be evaluated to judge their success. Parents usually play an active role in a child's ABA program to help a child transfer skills learn to other contexts.

Autism Spectrum Disorder – evidence based/evidenced informed good practice for supports provided to pre-school children their families and carers. Jacqueline M.A. Roberts, Griffith University, Katrina Williams. University of Melbourne, RCH and MCRI. Report funded by the NDIS, February 2016.

The recent above document published in February 2016, states “*Reviews and guidelines that provide evidence about intensity (hours per week) and duration of intervention report that comprehensive programs that have been evaluated and shown **to be effective are most commonly provided for between 15 and 25 hours a week, suggesting a midpoint of 20 hours and for a least 1 year.*** “

In this document this is further clarified “*interventions can be delivered by professionals, parents/carers and siblings/peers.* “pg. 17.

This information highlights the following factors:

- An intervention is effective if applied on a regular and intensive basis.
- Further factors need to be considered regarding the child's individual needs (ability to respond to this type of intervention).
- The intervention can be delivered by a trained practitioner, a parent or a sibling.

Therapies for Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Applied Behaviour Analysis is one of the most widely accepted therapies for children with Autism Spectrum disorder. “**It is most effective if therapy begins when children are younger than age 5, although older children with Autism can also benefit.**”

Abducting Individuals Strategies and Resources Prepared by Autism Victoria trading as Amaze March 2012

- A major study in the US on children with an ASD found that in the order of 50% of ASD children aged between 4 and 10, attempt to abscond at some stage. This is 4 times above the rate for children without an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Among children aged 7 – 10, one third abscond, which is 8 times the rate for neuro-typical children.
- Further, the research indicated that up to 60% of families avoid participating in certain activities as they are concerned their child may abscond. A further 40% indicated they lost sleep over the concern.
- Mechanical restraint – a device that is used to prevent, restrict or subdue a person's movements.

Wandering in People on the Autism Spectrum: A best practice resource for those caring for people on the Autism Spectrum.

Raising Children with Autism: Wandering Children and teenagers with Autism Spectrum disorder.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia's largest service provider for people on the autism spectrum. Our specialised, evidence informed schools program is the largest in the world, with additional services that include information and advice, diagnostic assessments, behaviour support,

parent and family support, and adult programs. We share evidence-informed Aspect practice and applied research nationwide such as the An Independent Outcome Study of a Pivotal Response Training Intervention for Children with Autism.

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