

## **Overview of Developmental Relationship Based Intervention for Autism**

Developmental relationship-based intervention (DRBI) is an evidence-based, parent-mediated approach to autism intervention where caregivers use warm, meaningful interactions that build on a child's strengths and interests to support the child's developing function in communicating, emotional regulation, learning, and problem solving.

The naturalistic interventions of DRBI have substantial evidence and the effect size of DRBI equals or exceeds other autism intervention approaches. In addition, DRBI meets the needs of advocacy groups such as the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) by focusing on function and embracing neurodiversity.

Research for DRBI includes a growing body of evidence with multiple papers covering key components of DRBI such as relationship-based and parent mediated, as well as whole program research and meta-analyses. The following representative selection demonstrates the depth and breadth of this research:

1. Sandbank 2020 - DRBI and NDBI have a moderate effect size on social communication in children with autism, while ABA research is inadequate to calculate an effect size. This research won a 2021 award from the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)
2. Mahoney (RT) 2003, 2005, 2009 – Demonstrated that relationship focused interventions are effective for children with autism
3. Green (PACT) - 2010, 2016 (Pickles) Showed that DRBI parent-mediated interventions help social communication in children with autism
4. Solomon (PLAY Project) - 2014 DRBI reduces ADOS scores dramatically in children with autism.
5. Casenhiser (MEHRIT) - 2011, 2014 DRBI helps social communication in children with autism
6. Siller (FPI) 2013, 2014 - FPI -DRBI parent coaching improves parent responsiveness in children with autism
7. Binns 2019 meta-analysis - DRBIs help a range of functional goals in children with autism
8. Steinbrenner 2020 - Developmental and Parent Implemented Interventions yield statistically significant outcomes.
9. CHBRP 2018, 2019, 2021- three independent reviews by the University of California conducted to advise the California Legislature found DRBI to be evidence based for treating children with autism.

## Annotated Bibliography

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