

CCF Speaker Series

Imitation Play Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Tiffany Field, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pediatrics
University of Miami

Date: Friday, May 6, 2016

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Location: MMC, AHC1 Room 110 at the Center for Children and Families



This talk is a brief review of the literature on the enhancing effects of adult imitation on the social behavior of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Ours and others' studies are reviewed showing that children with ASD respond more to imitative than contingently responsive adults. After repeated imitation sessions the children showed more distal social behaviors (looking, vocalizing) and proximal social behaviors (moving close to and touching adult). In another coding of these videotapes the children showed more joint attention behaviors following the imitation condition. And in still another analysis of these data, the children with ASD showed less repetitive/stereotypic behavior during the imitation condition.

At the end of this presentation, the participant will have noted data suggesting that:

1. After repeated imitation sessions the children showed more distal social behaviors (looking, vocalizing) and more proximal social behaviors (moving close to and touching the imitative adult) as well as more joint attention and less repetitive/stereotypic behaviors.
2. Children were more responsive to an adult who was not only more imitative, but also more playful.
3. Parents of children with ASD spent more time demonstrating and directing the children's play and were less imitative unless they were asked to be imitative.

Continuing Education:

- The CCF has been approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The CCF maintains responsibility for this program and its content.
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accepts CE credit provided by APA providers towards ANCC re-certification.
- The FIU Counselor Education Program is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP™) and a co-sponsor of the Center for Children and Families' presentations. The FIU Counselor Education program may award NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. The ACEP™ solely is responsible for all aspects of the program. Provider # 4565, effective 9/1/11.
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- This talk has also been approved for up to **1 CE** credits by Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling; Florida Board of Psychology and Florida Office of School Psychology. Provider# BAP 50-12872.

Lunch with speaker will be held immediately after the talk in AHC1 Room 117. All are invited to attend.