

Maine DHHS Children’s Services Evidence-Based Practice Advisory Committee

Autism Spectrum Disorders - Levels of Evidence

The intervention must meet at least one criterion in a category to receive a rating. All studies must be published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

Level	Criteria
Established Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 or more single-subject studies of strong research report strength that meet the following criteria:(1) conducted by at least 3 different research teams, (2) conducted in at least 3 different locations, and (3) had a total sample size of at least 15 different participants across studies. • 10 or more single-subject studies of at least adequate research report strength that meet the following criteria: (1) conducted by at least 3 different research teams, (2) conducted in at least 3 different locations, and (3) had a total sample size of at least 30 different participants across studies. • 2 or more group experimental design studies of strong research report strength conducted in separate settings by separate research teams. • 4 or more group experimental design studies of adequate research report strength conducted in at least two separate settings by separate research teams. • 1 group experimental design study of strong research report strength and 3 single-subject studies of strong research report strength. • 2 group experimental design studies of at least adequate research report strength and 3 single-subject studies of strong research report strength. • 1 group experimental design study of strong research report strength and 6 single subject studies of at least adequate research report strength. • 2 group experimental design studies of at least adequate research report strength and 6 single-subject studies of at least adequate research report strength.
Promising Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more group experimental design studies of at least adequate research report strength. Studies may be conducted by the same research team in the same or similar settings. • 3 or more single subject studies of at least adequate research report strength that meet the following criteria: (1) conducted by at least 2 different research teams, (2) conducted in at least 2 different locations, and (3) total sample size of at least 9

Level	Criteria
	different participants across studies.
Preliminary Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 group experimental design or single-subject design study or strong or adequate research report strength that shows positive effect on the desired outcomes.
Studied and No Evidence of Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous studies (more than three) of strong or adequate methodological rigor indicate no positive effect on the desired outcomes.
Insufficient Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An insufficient number of studies of acceptable methodological rigor exist and/or several studies of strong or adequate research report strength indicate mixed results such that a conclusion on the efficacy of the intervention cannot be determined.
Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies or published case reports indicate significant harm or risk of harm, including injury and death.

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