

Strategies for Training the Autism Spectrum Client - Part I



Course Description:

This course is designed to address the effectiveness of Interactive Metronome (IM) with the autism spectrum client. This course is divided into two parts – Part I will address the client population and strategies to identify good candidates. This one-hour course will cover three main areas: 1) Which autistic clients are appropriate candidates for IM training; 2) Why you should consider training the autistic client in an intensive fashion; and 3) IM Equipment settings for optimal performance with this population. Course material will be in power-point style with easy-to-reference lists and learning tools. Photographic and video examples will be presented to illustrate salient points and to reinforce learning.

Target Audience:

- Speech and Language Pathologist
- Speech and Language Pathology Asst
- Audiologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Certified Occupational Therapy Asst
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Asst
- Athletic Trainer
- Licensed Medical, Rehabilitation or Mental Health Professional
- Music Therapist

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the rationale for incorporating interventions for timing & rhythm in the treatment of individuals who are on the autism spectrum;
- Create and implement individualized and flexible treatment programs for individuals based upon clinical best practices in order to achieve optimal treatment outcomes;
- Establish appropriate IM settings and adapt the program as indicated to facilitate progress.

***Note: This course covers information that pertains to licensed therapists and therapy assistants. COTA and PTA professionals must practice IM under the supervision of a licensed OT or PT.**

Specific Learning Outcomes for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists:

- Describe the rationale for incorporating interventions for timing & rhythm in the treatment of individuals who are on the autism spectrum and display communication disorders;
- Create and implement individualized and flexible treatment programs for individuals based upon clinical best practices in order to achieve optimal speech and language treatment outcomes;
- Establish appropriate IM settings and adapt the program as indicated to facilitate progress in communication skills.

***Note: This course covers information that pertains to licensed therapists and therapy assistants. SLPA professionals must practice IM under the supervision of a licensed SLP.**

Instructor:

April Christopherson, OTR/L has been an Occupational Therapist for almost 20 years and has worked with diverse populations in a variety of settings – including home health, private clinic and in-patient rehabilitation. She is co-owner of Performance Advantage, LLC in Colorado Springs, CO where her current clientele range from pediatrics to adults to high performance athletes. She believes in a whole, team approach to the client – including various medical professionals and therapists plus the use of functional neurology and metabolic/nutrition counseling.

April was granted her BS degree in Occupational Therapy from St Ambrose University in Davenport, IA in 1991. She obtained a BA in Psychology at the same time. She has furthered her education by taking courses and reading materials

that foster her knowledge in helping clients recover neurological functioning from the lowest level to the higher cognitive and executive levels (such as Boehme Approach to Treatment of the Baby, Sensory Integration Clinics (various), The Listening Program, Alert Program, Treating Drug Affected Children, OT in the Schools, Benbow's Loops and Other Groups, Marriage and Family Counseling, Nutrition, Studies in Neurology, and various other certification classes.) She uses IM as an intensive neurological treatment option for qualified clients and as an introductory functional treatment option for pediatrics.

Disclosures:

Instructor Financial Disclosure(s): April is the author of this and several other webinars on the clinical application of Interactive Metronome technology. She received an honorarium from Interactive Metronome, Inc for the development and presentation of this and other webinars she has presented. April is also an instructor for Interactive Metronome, for which she receives a fee for teaching each course and reimbursement of travel expenses from Interactive Metronome, Inc.

Instructor Nonfinancial Disclosure(s): April is the owner of MaxAchieve, Inc and uses Interactive Metronome regularly in clinical practice.

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Agenda (60 minutes):

- Speaker introduction & disclosure
- Patience! What to know when working with a child with autism.
- Research: Timing in Child Development
- Assessment
- How timing and rhythm with IM impacts a child with autism
- Precautions: sensory processing
- Set-up & structuring of the treatment environment
- Pre-treatment with complementary treatment programs
- Behavioral modification: motivating the child with autism to actively participate
- Videos: case examples of clinical application
- Q & A

Instructional Methods:

LECTURE, PPT, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, CASE STUDY

CEUs:

This course is not offered for CEUs.