

CONCLUSION

In summary, we are only starting to explore the many variables which affect development in a child with Autism. We know that ABA can remove symptoms and lead to appropriate social language. We have demonstrated that therapy intensity can be reduced for some, but this also depends on other variables. Our reviews demonstrate the importance of parent involvement and the use of Picture code support as well as initial good visuo spatial skills. Younger children seem to do better, but children with Aspergers can afford to start later and need fewer hours. Children varied in their pattern of skill acquisition.

We therefor attribute success to the individual approach where programs are tailored for each child and checked on a weekly basis. We believe that a close program to child fit is needed for optimal gains. Just how many hours each child needs is, at this stage, still a mystery, and until we know more we still recommend as many as possible.

Much more research is needed if we are to identify the variables which will enable us to predict optimal program hours for individual children. Only when this is achieved will we be able to minimise the high cost of ABA/DTT programs, and ease the high financial burden for families.

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