

## Abstract

Research on the use of therapist-implemented parent coaching in the Early Intervention (EI) system has been shown to improve child outcomes for children under the age of 3 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). However, despite this knowledge, evidence suggests that providers rarely follow a parent-coaching model during EI sessions. The PEACE Project investigates the extent to which parent coaching is being used by providers and what barriers exist that prohibit the total adoption of parent coaching within the Early Intervention system. The overall goal of the study is to develop a toolkit of implementation strategies to increase and support provider use of parent coaching in the Early Intervention system.

**Implementation Science:** the study of methods and strategies to promote the uptake of interventions that are proven effective into routine practice

**PEACE Project:** Parent Empowerment and Coaching in Early Intervention Project

# Using Implementation Science to Evaluate the Use of Parent Coaching in the Early Intervention System for Children with Autism

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## Mixed Methods Study

Qualitative Interviews

Trained in Nvivo coding; coded transcripts to identify themes; participated in codebook development

Qualitative Observations

Observed live early intervention sessions with families

Quantitative Surveys

Entered survey data into RedCap, Box, and Qualtrics

## Resonating Themes from Parents

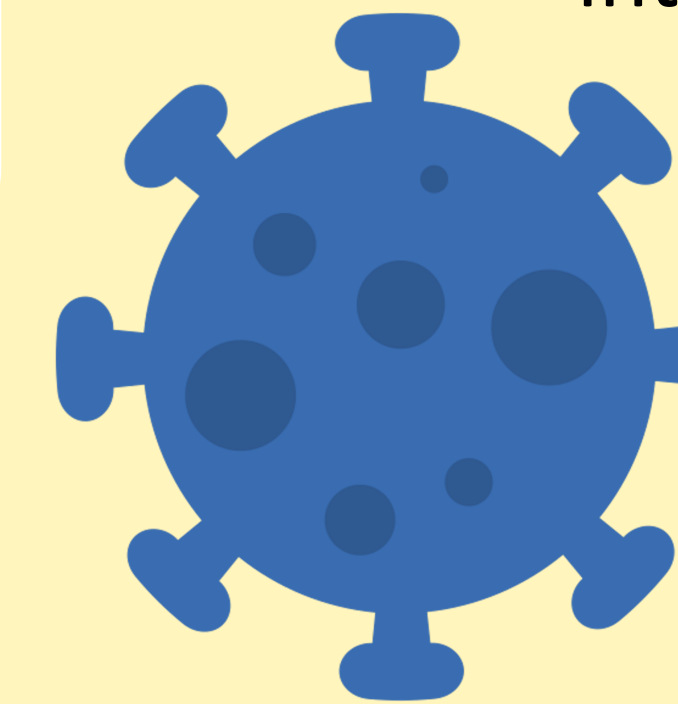
### Financial Stress

• "And if the parents are trying to find work and CCIS is saying that you can't get childcare support unless you work. And then you can't work unless you have the childcare."

### Interpersonal Relationship Stress

• "Or, I have families where they're – the child is between the parent's home and the grandparent's home, and they're just – the grandparents aren't onboard at all."

My future research interests: how to improve the EI system specifically for families with financial and interpersonal barriers



## Effects of COVID-19

- Participate in observations and interviews
- Many parents like telehealth format - less intimidating
- Telehealth format requires more parent participation

### References

- Pellecchia, M., Beidas, R.S., Mandell, D.S. *et al.* Parent empowerment and coaching in early intervention: study protocol for a feasibility study. *Pilot Feasibility Stud* **6**, 22 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40814-020-00568-3>
- "Implementation Science." *GACD*, Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, [www.gacd.org/research/implementation-science](http://www.gacd.org/research/implementation-science).