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## Article on Autism and Developmental Disorders

### Researchers at University of South Florida Target Autism and Developmental Disorders

2013 MAY 6 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Mental Health Weekly Digest -- Investigators discuss new findings in Autism and Developmental Disorders. According to news reporting out of Tampa, Florida, by NewsRx editors, research stated, "This study was conducted to examine the feasibility and potential efficacy of implementing an adapted, family-centered version of the school-based prevent-teach-reinforce (PTR) model. The research included two families who implemented the PTR process for their children in collaboration with the researchers."

Our news journalists obtained a quote from the research from the University of South Florida, "The adapted PTR was tested using a multiple baseline design across routines to examine changes in child behavior across experimental conditions. Results indicated that the adapted PTR intervention was associated with reduction in child problem behavior and increases in alternative behavior in both target and non-target routines. The results also indicated that the parents were able to implement the behavior intervention plan with fidelity and successfully use the PTR process for a novel routine. The PTR intervention also had high social validity ratings; both self-and novel-rated validity indicated that the PTR intervention was acceptable to both families and the community at large."

According to the news editors, the research concluded: "The data are discussed in terms of the expanding evidence related to the PTR model and the extension to a family context."

For more information on this research see: Using the Prevent-Teach-Reinforce Model with Families of Young Children with ASD. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 2013;43(5):1005-16. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* can be contacted at: Springer, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, USA. (Springer - [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com); *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* - [www.springerlink.com/content/0162-3257/](http://www.springerlink.com/content/0162-3257/))

Our news journalists report that additional information may be obtained by contacting K.M. Sears, Dept. of Child and Family Studies, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida, 13301 Bruce B Downs Blvd, MHC 2113A, Tampa, FL, 33612-3807, United States.

Publisher contact information for the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* is: Springer, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, USA.

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