

AIR-B

One of the primary goals of the network is to equip parents, professionals, educators, and community members with treatments that are practical in non-research settings and proven to make an impact. In these efforts, the network conducts multi-site studies evaluating core deficits of social communication in children of all ages with ASD from underrepresented and minority backgrounds.

AIR-B is committed to developing and validating outcome measures, treatment tools, and evidence-based guidelines, and spreading the latest research and results into the community.

AUTISM INTERVENTION RESEARCH NETWORK ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The **AIR-B Network** is a team of researchers from seven sites around the country working together with the community to improve the lives of children with autism spectrum disorders.

Across all sites and studies, the ultimate objective of the AIR-B is to deploy effective and sustainable evidence-based practices that will serve a broad community base and to improve outcomes for all children with ASD. We have identified four major tenants that guide us in these efforts:

1. **Conducting research on evidence-based practices, with a particular emphasis on evaluating core deficits of social communication in children with ASD.**
2. **Validating existing tools and developing evidence-based guidelines.**
3. **Disseminating information on research, guidelines, and validated tools.**
4. **Training the next generation of autism researchers.**



Intervention Research

Since the fall of 2008, AIR-B has conducted 6 intervention research studies, implemented in underserved and under-represented communities to help provide better social outcomes for children with ASD.

- An intervention for parents with the purpose of helping their young children with ASD improve their communication skills
- A school-based intervention designed to help children with ASD improve their social skills
- A web-based tool created to improve social skills in school-aged children with ASD
- An intervention designed to improve peer social interactions for teens with ASD in schools
- **Remaking Recess Intervention** designed to increase social interaction in students with ASD and their peers during recess and lunch times in schools
- **Tools for Teachers Intervention** focused on helping students with ASD in special education classrooms transition from one activity to the next

AIR-B partners are actively training the next generation of new autism researchers across a wide array of disciplines that includes Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Psychology, Speech and Language, Education, and Neuroscience.



Tools and Guidelines

The AIR-B network is committed to developing measures that are valid and meaningful to research.

Tools for Dissemination

Social Network: A measure of children's friendships in the classroom

Social Menus: An intervention tool created to help children with ASD hold conversations and interact more effectively with their peers

Playground Observations of Peer Engagement (POPE): An observation measure of how children with ASD play with their peers on the playground

Treatment Guidelines

The RAND Corporation and members of the AIR-B network produced a set of guidelines on effective behavioral treatments for children with ASD.

Article: Maglione, M., Gans, D., Das, L, Timbie, J, & Kasari, C. (2012). Nonmedical interventions for children with ASD: Recommended guidelines and further research needs. *Pediatrics*, 130, DOI: 10.1542/peds.2012-09000.

Research Team

Connie Kasari, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles – Center for Autism Research & Treatment

Tristram Smith, Ph.D., University of Rochester Medical Center

David Mandell, ScD., University of Pennsylvania – Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research

Catherine Lord, Ph.D., New York – Presbyterian Center for Autism and the Developing Brain

Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Florida State University – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

Bryan King, MD, Seattle Children's Research Institute – Center for Child Health, Behavior, and Development

Rebecca Landa, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Kennedy Krieger Institute – Center for Autism and Related Disorders

To learn more about the Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health, please visit us at <http://airbnetwork.org>.