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Evaluating a Sensorimotor Intervention in Children Who Have Experienced Complex Trauma: A Pilot Study

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Oral Presentation O12.2

EVALUATING A SENSORIMOTOR INTERVENTION IN CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED COMPLEX TRAUMA: A PILOT STUDY

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The purpose of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a sensorimotor intervention on children who have experienced complex trauma. Principles from the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics as well as a sensory integration intervention were incorporated into activity groups; these interventions focused on increasing attunement while stimulating the brain. The intervention took place at the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) of The Baby Fold in Normal, Illinois. The RTC is an inpatient treatment center for children with severe emotional and behavioral problems, which are typically the result of early, chronic traumatic experiences. We hypothesized a decrease in the frequency of problematic behaviors and an increase in positive, pro-social behaviors for children receiving the treatment compared to a control group that did not receive the specialized activity groups. As predicted, our results indicated a significant decrease in some problematic behaviors in the treatment group, but there was no change in positive behaviors.