

Spring 2024

## The CI-ASD Program: Implementation of Contextual Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder (CI-ASD) with Latino Families (Preliminary Report)

Gabriel Gonzalez

*University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, g.gonzalez4@usa.edu*

Erik Pérez

*University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, eperez1@usa.edu*

Angela Blackwell

*University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, ablackwell@usa.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://soar.usa.edu/otdcapstonesspring2024>



Part of the [Occupational Therapy Commons](#), and the [Pediatrics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Gonzalez, G., Pérez, E., & Blackwell, A. (2024, April 1). The CI-ASD Program: Implementation of Contextual Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder (CI-ASD) with Latino Families (Preliminary Report). Poster presented at the Virtual OTD Capstone Symposium, University of St Augustine for Health Sciences. Retrieved from <https://soar.usa.edu/otdcapstonesspring2024/66>

This Poster/presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the OTD Capstone Symposia at SOAR @ USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2024 Virtual OTD Capstone Symposium by an authorized administrator of SOAR @ USA. For more information, please contact [soar@usa.edu](mailto:soar@usa.edu).

## The CI-ASD Program:

# Implementation of Contextual Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder (CI-ASD) with Latino Families (Preliminary Report)

Gabriel Gonzalez; Erik Perez, OTD, OTR and Angela Labrie Blackwell PhD, OTR

### Background

- Children diagnosed with ASD experience sensory processing differences that affect their participation in daily activities<sup>12</sup>. Recent research indicates that children with ASD have a lower level of participation and less enjoyment in occupational activities such as social participation, education, play, sleep, dressing, meals, toileting, and organizing the environment<sup>12</sup>.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), autism affects an estimated 1 in 36 children in the U.S<sup>13</sup>. ASD can be diagnosed as early as 18 months<sup>1</sup>. However, Latino children are diagnosed with ASD approximately two years later than white children<sup>21, 22</sup>. Latino families still have the greatest disparities in accessing ASD resources throughout the U.S. compared to white families<sup>11</sup>. The lack of ASD services and resources led to enhanced parental stress, increased child behavioral problems, and decreased parental self-efficacy<sup>2, 20</sup>. Similarly, the quality of life in families is impacted by not being able to access essential services in town or knowing what ASD resources are within the community<sup>7, 9</sup>.
- Contextual interventions adapted for autism spectrum disorder (CI-ASD) are an emerging intervention for occupational therapy (OT) practitioners<sup>16, 17</sup>. Recent literature shows improvement in child participation and parental self-efficacy when combining sensory processing knowledge with a coaching approach within a family-centered context<sup>5, 15, 16</sup>. Many studies utilizing a coaching approach demonstrated increased child participation and parental self-efficacy outcomes<sup>10, 16, 17, 19</sup>.

### PROBLEM

While some evidence supports the application of CI-ASD in improving children's participation and promoting a sense of efficacy, this intervention has not been implemented within the Latino Community.

### Purpose

The purpose of this capstone was to examine the following research questions:

- Does CI-ASD increase the quality of life in Latino Families?
- Does CI-ASD promote Latino parenting sense of efficacy?
- Does CI-ASD promote children's participation in Latino family activities and routines?

### Methods



#### Participants

- One Latino Family
- Mother age is 45 years old
- The child's age is 3 years old
- Located in San Antonio, TX



#### Research Design

- Single-subject (one group pretest-posttest design) study with an ABA design<sup>3</sup>.
- Convenience Sampling<sup>3</sup>.



#### Data Collection and Analysis

- Goal Attainment Scale (GAS)<sup>14</sup>.
- Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC)<sup>8</sup>.
- Quality of Life in Autism Questionnaire (QoLA)<sup>6, 7</sup>.



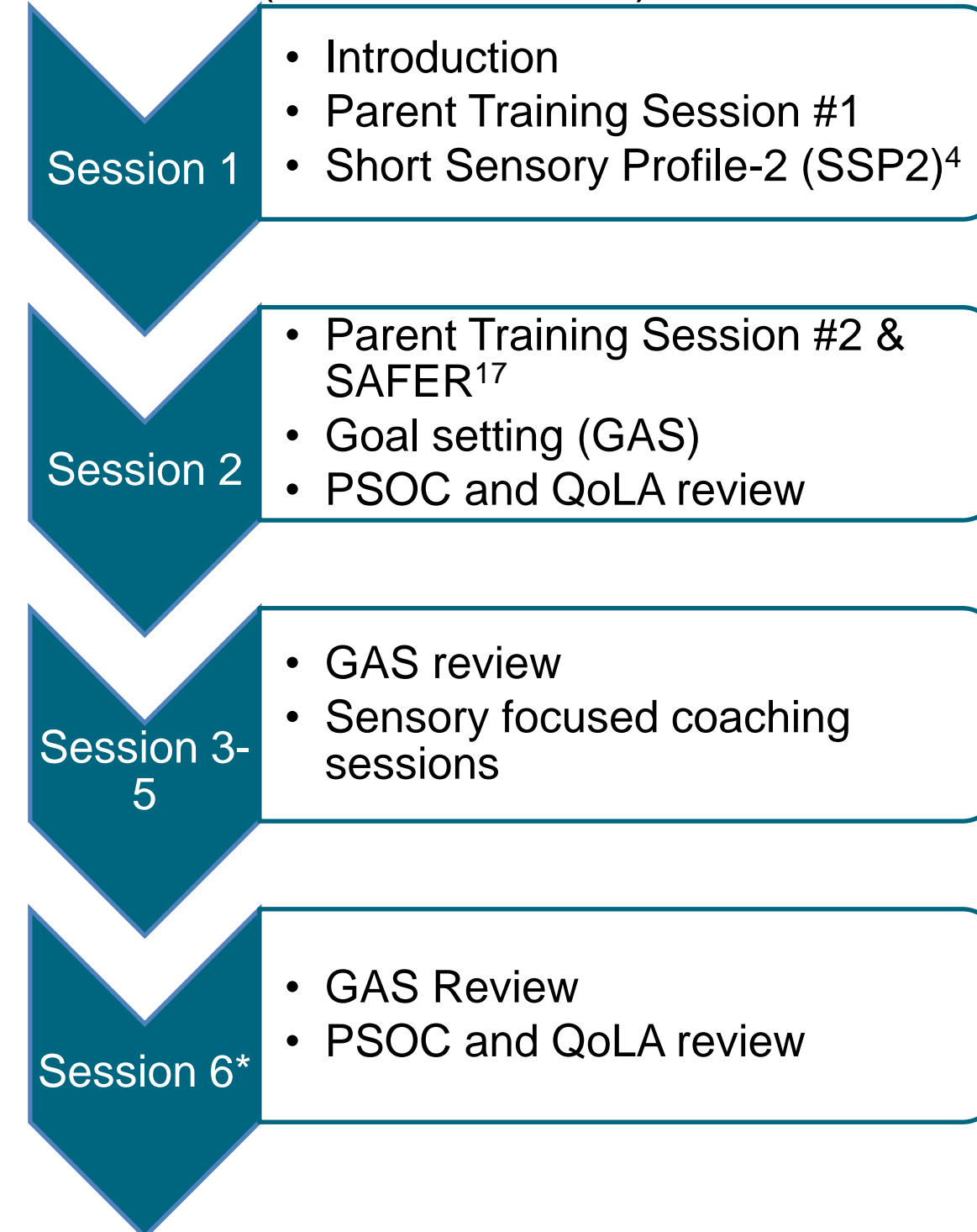
#### Dissemination

- Write a scholarly manuscript
- Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal

This project involved human subjects; it has been reviewed and approved by the IRB.

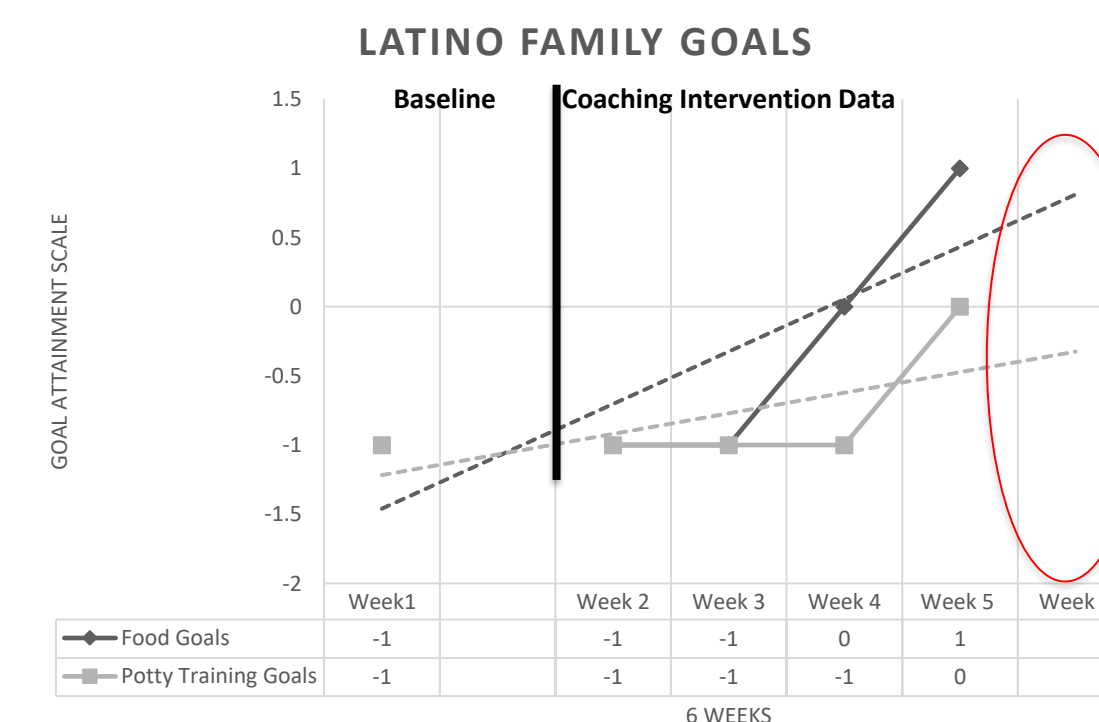
### The CI-ASD Program

The CI-ASD Program consisted of 2 parent training sessions and 4 in-person sessions (60-90 min each).



### Preliminary Results

#### Goal Attainment Scale



\* This study is still underway. The oval indicates where the data for week six will be entered. Further, the PSOC and QoLA was collected during session #2. These measures will be analyzed during session #6 to answer the research question.

### Preliminary Discussion

- Although this study is still underway, Contextual Interventions Adapted for Autism Spectrum Disorder (CI-ASD) impact child participation, parenting sense of efficacy, and quality of life in Latino families, which demonstrates the potential to decrease disparities in accessing ASD resources and services.

#### Limitations

- Small sample size
- Time constraints

#### Implications for Practice and Research

- Continue this study to build on this evidence of CI-ASD with Latino families.
- Explore implementation of CI-ASD with other populations.
- Consider a longer duration to allow more time for change and capacity building.
- Implement concepts of Culturally Relevant Care<sup>15</sup>.
- Maintain reflection logs to enhance coaching competency.
- Consider a mixed-methods approach to identify perceived strengths and barriers within Latino families.

#### References



**Acknowledgment:** Special thanks to Dr. Alvarado and the staff at Autism Community Network; Milagros Gutierrez Gonzalez