

Using Video Modeling Delivered Through iPods to Teach Vocational Tasks to Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The purpose of this study is to determine whether completion of vocationally-related tasks can be taught to students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) or other disabilities using Video Modeling (VM). The study will also explore the feasibility of delivering the intervention through a portable video player such as an iPod. Additionally, it will explore the social validity of using an iPod to deliver the intervention.

Research Questions

1. Will video modeling (independent variable), delivered through a portable video player, increase independent completion, of new vocationally-related tasks or those currently being performed (dependent variable, operationally defined) by young adults with ASD?
2. What is the social validity of using an iPod as a delivery model for video modeling interventions?

Target tasks will be identified and defined by the researcher in collaboration with the participant, employer, parent, teacher and/or job coach. The researcher will observe each student during the performance of the task and collect data regarding the completion of tasks in the routine. All of the observations will be video recorded with the consent of the participant and the employer.

The intervention will consist of a video of a co-worker performing the task correctly. This video will be loaded onto an iPod and viewed by the participant while they complete the task being performed on the video.

The investigator will provide pre-training instruction on how to use the iPod to access the intervention prior to the introduction of the first intervention. Once the participant has shown acquisition of the first task, then the intervention will be introduced to the second task and the same process will occur for the third task. After the intervention the participants, employers, parents, teachers and job coaches will be asked to fill out a survey designed to measure the social validity of the intervention.

Participants-

The participants can range in age from 16- 29 years of age. They must currently be employed (paid or unpaid) and working in some type of a vocational setting. Approval will be obtained from the employer by the researcher prior to the study. They will have a psychological diagnosis of ASD that qualified them for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They may or may not still be attending school or receiving special education services. Participation in the study will be strictly voluntary. Participants will be given a gift at the completion of the study for their participation.

Ethical Issues

The University of Kansas Human Subjects Committee has given approval for this study and determined that the participants involved will be at minimal risk (HSCL #17696). Participants will be required to sign consent documents prior to participation. Participants who are not legally able to give consent will need their guardian to sign the consent form. The study is voluntary and participants can stop at any time for any reason.

Duration

The study will take approximately six weeks. The researcher will conduct three one hour observations per week. This timeframe is an estimate and the study may last longer depending on each participant's unique situation.

For more information or if you are interested in participating contact:

Ryan Kellems, M. Ed.

rkellems@ku.edu

785-608-7283