



## The STAR Program

### *Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research*

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The STAR Program (Arick, Loos, Falco, Krug 2004) is a comprehensive curriculum for students with autism and other developmental disabilities. The information below is intended to answer commonly asked questions regarding the program.

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#### **The STAR Program meets the criteria of an evidence-based program.**

- The STAR Program uses established treatments identified by the National Autism Center (National Standards Report, 2009) as a core instructional strategy.
  - The core instructional strategies of discrete trial training, pivotal response training and teaching functional routines have been documented by over 30 years of research literature to be effective for teaching students with autism (National Professional Development Center, 2010).
  - Two major studies on the STAR Program have found that students who received the STAR Program as part of their public school instruction made significant progress in several areas of development.
    - The Autism Outcome Study (Arick, Young, Loos, Falco and Krug, 2003):
    - The Autism Instructional Methods Study (Randomized Clinical Trial, University of Pennsylvania, Center for Autism Research)
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#### **The STAR Program is a cost-effective solution for school districts.**

- The STAR Program is a structured, manualized curriculum and includes assessments, lesson plans, data collection and extensive progress monitoring procedures. The program is designed to meet the needs of a range of students within a classroom, including students with developmental disabilities.
  - Classrooms and training sites can be developed to model best-practice and fidelity of implementation. Establishing training sites at the district level will ensure sustainability of effective programs over time.
  - Special education litigation has been found to be 10 times greater in the area of autism than other disabilities. Providing cost-effective, evidenced-based programs for students with autism directs valuable school resources to the students who will benefit the most from these programs.
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#### **Comments from school districts and parents about student outcomes when choosing the STAR Program.**

- School Districts consistently report positive outcomes for students. A brief list of comments from school districts throughout the country include:
  - "I just wanted to say thank you for your amazing program! My son is 6 and has been on the STAR Program for 2 years. It's amazing! He loves learning this way. -Parent
  - "STAR has been a user-friendly, research based, effective resource for teachers. Thank you for partnering with us to bring about better outcomes for the students we teach and for whom we care so deeply." -Administrator
  - "The STAR program is designed for easy implementation..... an enormous support for our team is that the programs are complete, so that teachers can spend more time on teaching rather than on paperwork. Using this program, our team, including the teaching staff, OT, PT and SLT, has found success in all areas of development with our most involved children to those who are ready for part-time integration." -Administrator

***For more detailed information email:  
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