

# 2022.... The best of!!

## NDBI in community settings

Original Research Report

### Improvement of Autism Symptoms After Comprehensive Intensive Early Interventions in Community Settings

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#### Abstract

**BACKGROUND:** Preschool children with autism in southern Sweden participated in a comprehensive Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI) program. **AIMS:** To evaluate the ongoing NDBI program by comparing the pre- and postintervention outcomes in terms of improved autism symptom severity. **METHOD:** The improvement of Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-R) test results between baseline and evaluation among children participating in the NDBI program ( $n = 67$ ) was compared with the results among children receiving community treatment as usual ( $n = 27$ ) using analysis of covariance. **RESULTS:** The study showed that children in the NDBI group improved their ADOS-R total scores between baseline and evaluation ( $-0.8$  scores per year; 95% CI  $[-1.2, -0.4]$ ), whereas no improvement was detected in the comparison group ( $+0.1$  scores per year; 95% CI  $[-0.7, +0.9]$ ).

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# Un possibile modello di intervento

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Svezia meridionale

Programma NDBI integrato presso tutti i centri di abilitazione per bambini e ragazzi, centri che sono responsabili dell'intervento, del supporto e dell'abilitazione per tutti i bambini con ASD e le loro famiglie

Valutare un programma NDBI offerto a tutti i bambini con ASD nella fascia 4-7 anni, implementato nell'ambiente del bambino a casa e nella scuola dell'infanzia



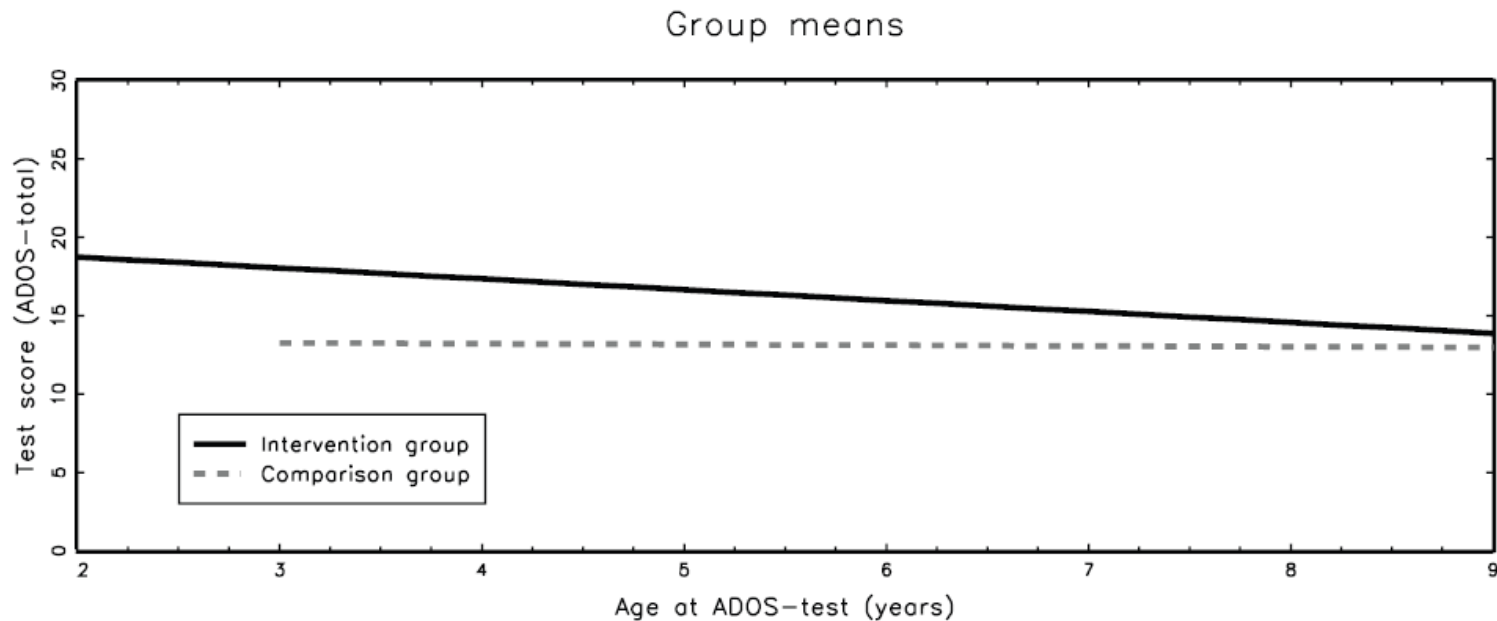
# Il programma NDBI

è stato individualizzato per ciascun bambino da esperti specialisti in ABA con diversi background come psicologi, logopedisti o insegnanti di sostegno, in collaborazione con i genitori e la scuola. Tutti i genitori e le scuole dell'infanzia che hanno partecipato e i formatori avevano formazione in autismo e ABA già prima dell'intervento (...) l'intensità è stata calcolata tra le 15 e le 25 ore settimanali in totale per 2 anni.

p.486



# I punteggi ADOS calano nell'arco dei 2 anni per il gruppo sperimentale ma non per il gruppo di controllo



# Limiti

- Unica misura di efficacia è l'ADOS ma la letteratura ci mette in guardia dall'utilizzo di una singola misura per misurare effetti del trattamento
- Gruppo di controllo numericamente ridotto rispetto al gruppo sperimentale e con caratteristiche demografiche differenti
- Gruppo sperimentale basato sull'adesione all'intervento offerto a tutte le famiglie. Possibilità che l'adesione al programma rifletta differenti risorse educative in generale da parte di chi ha scelto di aderire all'offerta



# Per approfondimenti sull'intervento ABA-EIBI in community settings vedi:

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15021149.2019.1629781>




 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

ARTICLE



## Community Implementation of Early Behavioral Intervention: Higher Intensity Gives Better Outcome

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### ABSTRACT

We evaluated the outcome of early behavioral intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) as it was provided through public service providers in Norway. A group of 21 children received low-intensity intervention (11.1 weekly hours), a second group of 26 children higher intensity intervention (18.1 weekly hours), and a third group of 17 children received eclectic special education. Group assignment was based on independent referrals. We compared outcomes on adaptive behavior, ASD severity, and intellectual functioning after one year. The lower and higher intensity behavioral intervention groups received fewer hours than what is recommended but did significantly better than the eclectic group. Moreover, the higher intensity behavioral group did better than the lower intensity behavioral group. Nevertheless, gains in both groups were more modest than what is reported for intervention that is more intensive. We describe the model of service delivery, discuss challenges with it, and propose improvements.

Elena Clò

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### KEYWORDS

Autism spectrum disorder;  
early intensive behavioral  
intervention; outcome;  
community based;  
dose-response relationship

# Per approfondimenti su cosa si intenda per interventi basati sull'evidenza:

## What does it mean for an autism intervention to be evidence-based?

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### Abstract

Although there is consensus in the field that individuals on the autism spectrum should receive interventions that are evidence-based, the concept of “evidence-based” is multifaceted and subject to ongoing development and debate. In this commentary, we review historical developments, methodological approaches, as well as areas of controversies and research directions in the establishment of an evidence base for autism intervention.

