

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

VIRTUAL REALITY FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES & TRAINING SEMINARS



LEADER & PRESENTER:

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INTRODUCTION

Social communication and interactive deficit are most often addressed via functional communication activities (FCA). However, FCA are limited in their reach and there is obscure evidence on their ability to teach generalizable skills. Our program introduces innovative virtual reality (VR) FCA to increase accessibility via mobile and online training and enhances skill generalization using proven VR technology. Additionally, via training seminars for service providers and families, we seek to facilitate the dissemination of this new frontier throughout the world. Our main objective is to create an online resource with six clinically validated VR-FCA and corresponding instructional videos for service providers and families. Our secondary objective is to organize two VR-FCA training seminars.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This program combines the most effective features of immersive training technology with a proven intervention. The VR-FCA program will enhance efficacy and access to services that promote social integration and self-advocacy in children and adolescents. As diagnosis rates of ASD continue to climb, mobile technologies like VR increase accessibility of services — a therapy or training session can be delivered in home on a mobile phone, personal computer, tablet, or increasingly affordable VR headset. This module will make the training available to anyone, anytime, anywhere. Corresponding with downloadable VR-FCA, our training seminars will introduce this disruptive technology to service providers and families. This feature will 1) promote clinical adoption of VR-FCA as a supplemental tool and 2) introduce VR-FCA to families for in-home training. Online training videos will scaffold implementation of VR-FCA both clinically and at home to improve access to services and outcomes for children with ASD.