



Illinois Autism/PDD Training & Technical Assistance Project

FY06 Highlights & Future Challenges

FY2006 Project Activities

- ▶ Illinois State-Wide Technical Assistance Center
- ▶ Regional Resource Teams
- ▶ On-Line Training Courses
- ▶ Focus Family Support for Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Family Resource Specialists Network
- ▶ Illinois Experiential Program Training for Autism
- ▶ SIMEO Evaluation of Outcomes
- ▶ Resource Library Materials Centers/Website

IATTAP, a component of the Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center (IS-TAC), is an Illinois State Board of Education funded initiative focused on building the local capacity of schools to effectively educate students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and supporting families who have chil-

IATTAP 06

**Team
Training
Series**

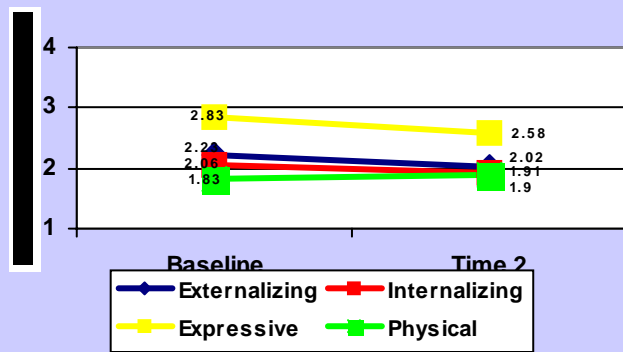
▶ **Supported
Communication
8 Teams/35 participants**

▶ **Discrete Trial
14 Teams/
44 participants**

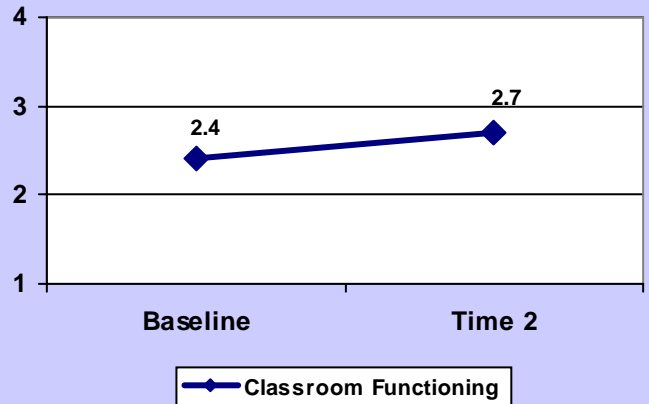
SIMEO Evaluation of Outcomes

In FY 2006, a total of 25 students were receiving direct or indirect supports and services from the ISBE IATTAP through FFSASD and were tracked using one or more Systematic Information Management of Educational Outcomes (SIMEO) assessment tools at baseline and at approximately 100 day intervals. The mean length of time students were being followed was 26.2 weeks or 6.4 months. The students' grade levels vary from Early Childhood to Grade 8, and the families reside in ten counties across Illinois.

Behavioral Change By Sub-Scales Across Environments



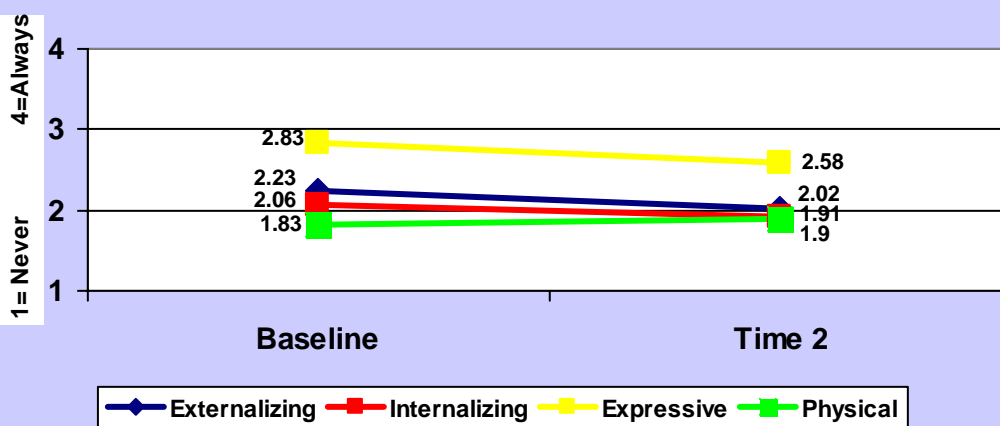
Classroom Behavioral Functioning



Student classroom behavioral functioning was assessed using a 13 item assessment that included items such as task completion, ability to pay attention and classroom interaction behaviors. Positive classroom behaviors increased 12% between the two periods of time, suggesting an approximation closer to satisfactory or "good" classroom behavior functioning for these students.

Overall behavior functioning of the Autism Project students was examined using the Big Behavior Tool, a 43 item/ four sub-scale assessment developed to examine the frequency of behaviors that are likely to place a student at risk in their home, school and or community environments. The four behavior constructs examined include: internalizing behaviors, externalizing behaviors, expressive behaviors and physical behaviors.

Behavioral Change By Sub-Scales Across Environments



Analysis of aggregate sub-scale data across home, school and community revealed a nine (9) percent decrease in the frequency of expressive related behaviors (e.g., communication, self-help, repetitive speech, self-stimulation). These expressive-related behaviors were rated as most frequently displayed across the home, school and community environments at baseline.

A decrease of 8.5% in externalizing behaviors was observed across home, school and community environments, with substantial changes in awareness of danger, bolting and property destruction between the two periods of time. Internalizing behaviors (e.g., anxiety, depression, withdrawal) at home, at school and in the community decreased by 7.5%.

Illinois Experiential Program for Autism Spectrum Disorders

From former "IEP" Trainees

IATTAP sponsored week-long experiential training in Summer 05 in Arlington Heights and Harrisburg, as part of the project's efforts to coordinate and assist schools and districts to effectively teach and support students with autism spectrum disorders. Networking skill-building meetings provide follow-up support and consultation. For the first time, teams who attended training participated in self-assessments that will become part of action planning to improve school programming for students with ASD. In FY07, 4 weeks of training will be held in the summer, followed by assessment and on-site coaching during the school year.

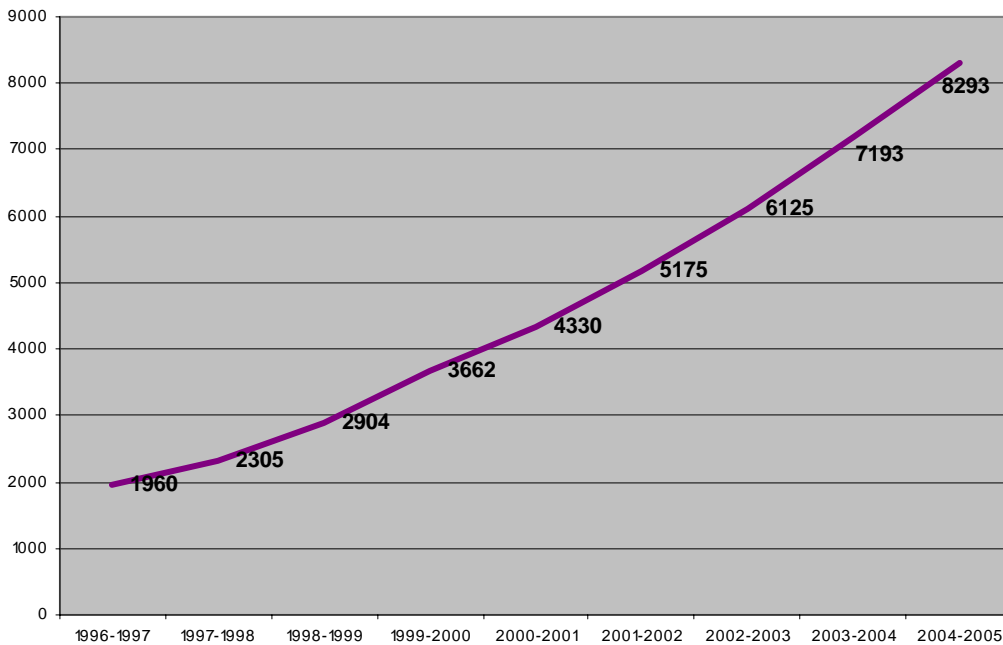
"I especially valued the team approach and the brainstorming. This workshop put that motto into practice and it was wonderful to be a part of it as a team member. I appreciated the practical strategies but I especially appreciated all that I will take with me on a global level."

"This is absolutely the most organized, valuable training I have been

Eight Years of Increase in Autism Disability Category in Illinois

EDUCATION STATUS AND CHALLENGES

Number of Children in Illinois Receiving Special Education under the Category of Autism Ages 3-21



Source: ISBE Child Count Data

IATTAP is one of four initiatives of the Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center funded through the Illinois State Board of Education by a discretionary IDEIA grant. The number of students with autism continues to increase and is the fastest growing single disability category in Illinois and the United States. Personnel preparation, district support, teacher turnover and family support are major challenges for IATTAP in accomplishing the goals of quality educational programming and quality lives for individuals with ASD and their families.

