



Southwest  
Autism  
Research &  
Resource  
Center

# Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) For Young Children with ASD

**Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

President & CEO

Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

Adjunct Faculty  
Arizona State University

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# Findings and Conclusions: National Standards Project,

## Research Findings for Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults (Under 22 Years)

### Established Interventions for Individuals Under Age 22

In the following pages, we provide a detailed definition and description for each of the 14 Established Interventions identified for this population in Phase 2 of the National Standards Project.

You may already be familiar with some of these options. Many volumes have been published on each of these interventions; we encourage you to learn more about those that might be most useful to you.

The following interventions have been identified as falling into the Established level of evidence:

- Behavioral Interventions
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Package
- Comprehensive Behavioral Treatment for Young Children
- Language Training (Production)
- Modeling
- Natural Teaching Strategies
- Parent Training
- Peer Training Package
- Pivotal Response Training
- Schedules
- Scripting
- Self-Management
- Social Skills Package
- Story-based Intervention

## Phase 2 Report

Young Children

NATIONAL STANDARDS PROJECT—  
GUIDELINES FOR EVIDENCE-  
BASED PRACTICE—  
GUIDELINES FOR  
INTERVENTIONS FOR  
CHILDREN WITH  
AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDERS

...were conducted within a natural  
environment, and the  
improvements in responding and  
imitative behavior occurred during the  
interventions, and with respect to  
the need for specialized or severe in-  
terruptive behavior.

# Autism Insurance Legislation



House Engrossed

OF THIS SECTION:  
"AUTISM DISORDER" MEANS ONE OF THE THREE FOLLOWING  
THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND  
MENTAL DISORDERS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC  
ASSOCIATION, 4TH EDITION, REVISED, 1994, OR  
LATER.  
"AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER - NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED."  
"THERAPY" MEANS INTERACTIVE THERAPIES DERIVED FROM  
INCLUDING APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS, WHICH INCLUDES  
PIVOTAL RESPONSE TRAINING, INTENSIVE INTERVENTION  
FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION,  
AND COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT TRAINING.  
AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 9, ARIZONA REVISED  
STATUTES, SECTION 20-1057.11; AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE  
9, SECTIONS 20-1402.03 AND 20-1404.03;  
AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 20-1404.03;  
AND AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 20-1404.03;  
"AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER."

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

# NEW CURES AND THERAPIES

FOR FUN AND PROFIT (OURS)

Subliminal  
Message  
Therapy

Hydro  
Pudding  
Therapy

Swedish  
Meatball  
Therapy

Kitchen  
Utensil  
Therapy

Bungy  
Jumping  
Therapy

Invisible  
Energy  
Therapy

Bladder  
Release  
Therapy

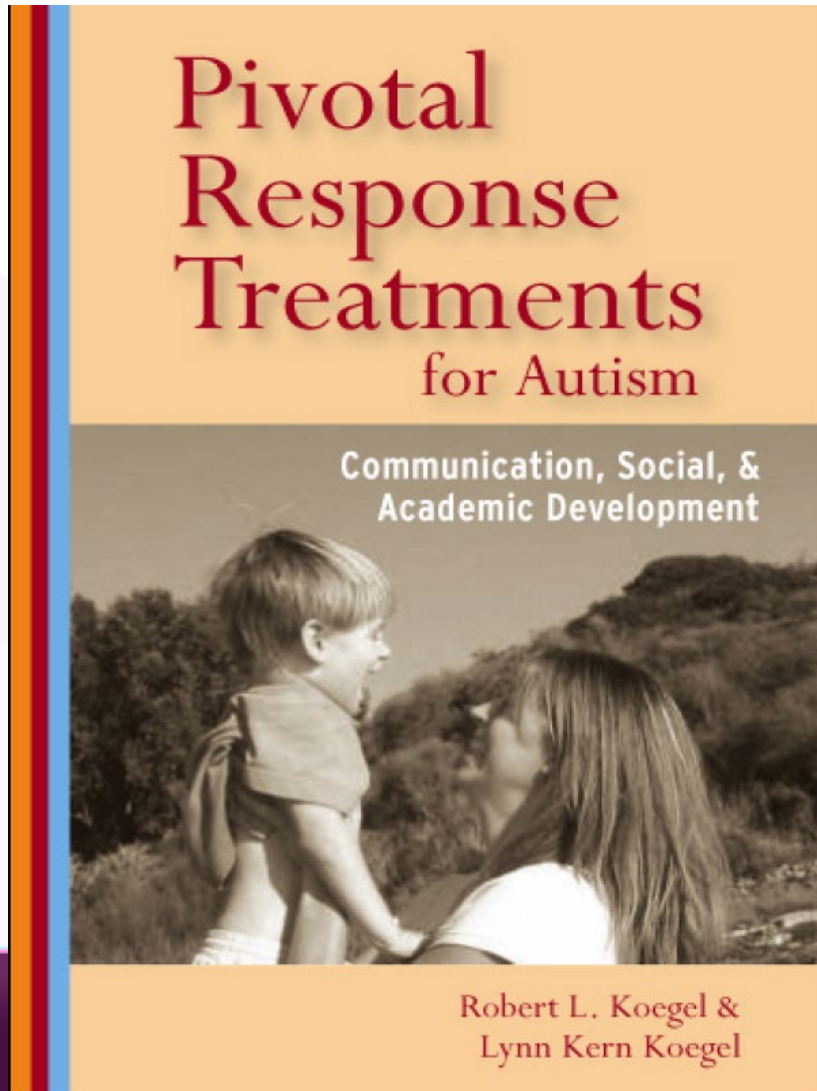
WOW!  
COOL!  
LET'S  
TRY 'EM  
ALL!

DO YOU THINK THE  
SCHOOL WILL PAY  
FOR ALL OF THESE?

## SHOPPING AROUND:

DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?  
THEY NEVER MET A THERAPY  
THEY DIDN'T LIKE.

# Pivotal Response Treatment: Research and Implementation



# Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT)

- Implemented in the natural environment (home, school, community)

## Behavioral Interventions: Empirically Validated Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Parent training model

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Laura Schreibman • Geraldine Dawson • Aubyn C. Stahmer •

J Autism Dev Disord  
DOI 10.1007/s10803-015-2407-8

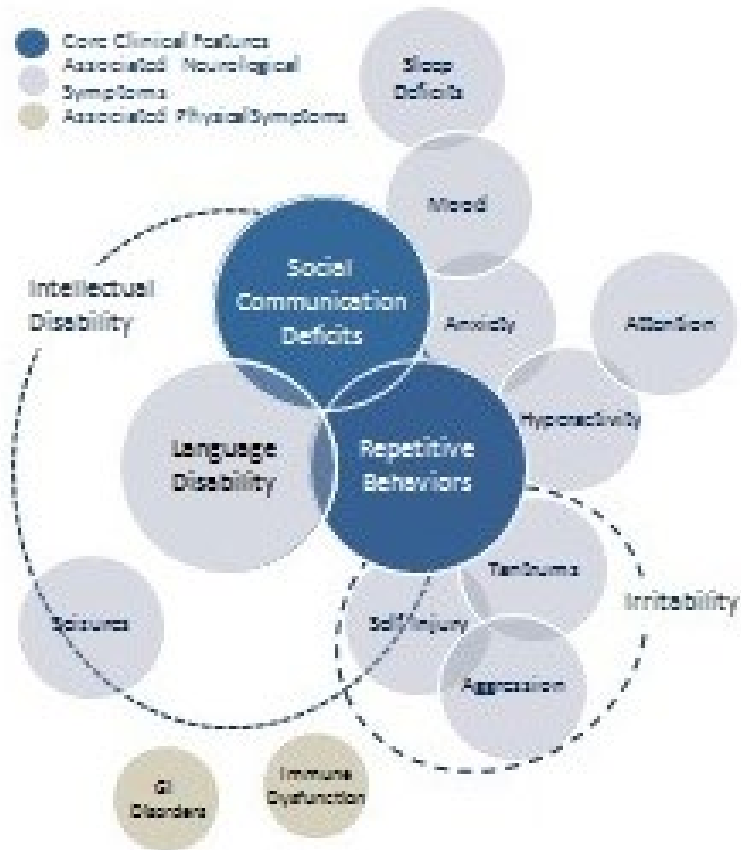
Rebec  
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ORIGINAL PAPER

Erin M Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions: Empirically Validated Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Laura Schreibman • Geraldine Dawson • Aubyn C. Stahmer •  
Rebecca Landa • Sally J. Rogers • Gail G. McGee • Connie Kasari •  
Brooke Ingersoll • Ann P. Kaiser • Yvonne Bruinsma •  
Erin McNeerney • Amy Wetherby • Alycia Halladay

# From Individual Target Behaviors to Improving Core Symptoms of Autism



# What is a “Pivotal Response” in Autism?





# PRT: Four Pivotal Areas

*Produce widespread, generalized improvements in (un)targeted behaviors*



**LEARNED  
HELPLESSNESS**

4) Self-management

# PRT: Motivational Procedures

- Point 1: Child Attention
- Point 2: Maintenance Tasks\*
- Point 3: Shared Control/Child Choice\*
  
- Point 4: Contingent
- Point 5: Reinforce Attempts\*
- Point 6: Direct and Natural Reinforcers\*

# Child Attention

- The question, instruction, and/or opportunity to respond
  - Child **must** be attending
  - Should be clear, uninterrupted, and appropriate to the task

# Child Attention (video examples)



# Maintenance Tasks

Maintenance tasks

Vs. Acc



# Maintenance Tasks (video examples)



# Shared Control (Child Choice)

(versus child directed or teacher directed)



# Shared Control (video examples)



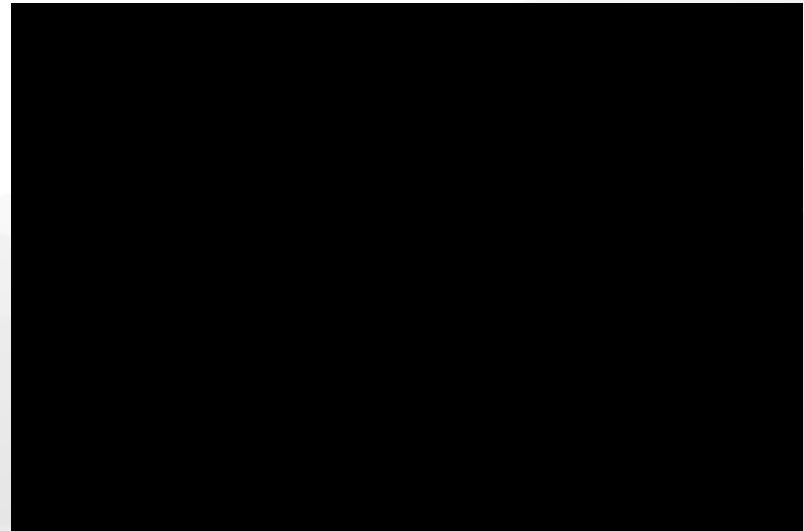


# Contingent

- Reinforcement i



# Contingent (video examples)



# Reinforce Attempts

- Increase motivation to respond
- Intent to respond
- Reasonable attempt
  - Attention to the task
  - Goal directed
  - Reasonable effort

# Reinforce Attempts (video examples)



# Direct and Natural Reinforcers

- 

C

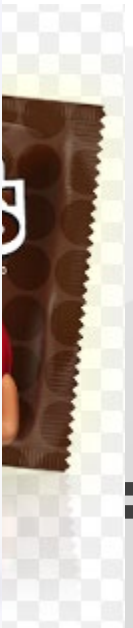


FORCE

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ON



**CHILD's REWARD** (what they receive)

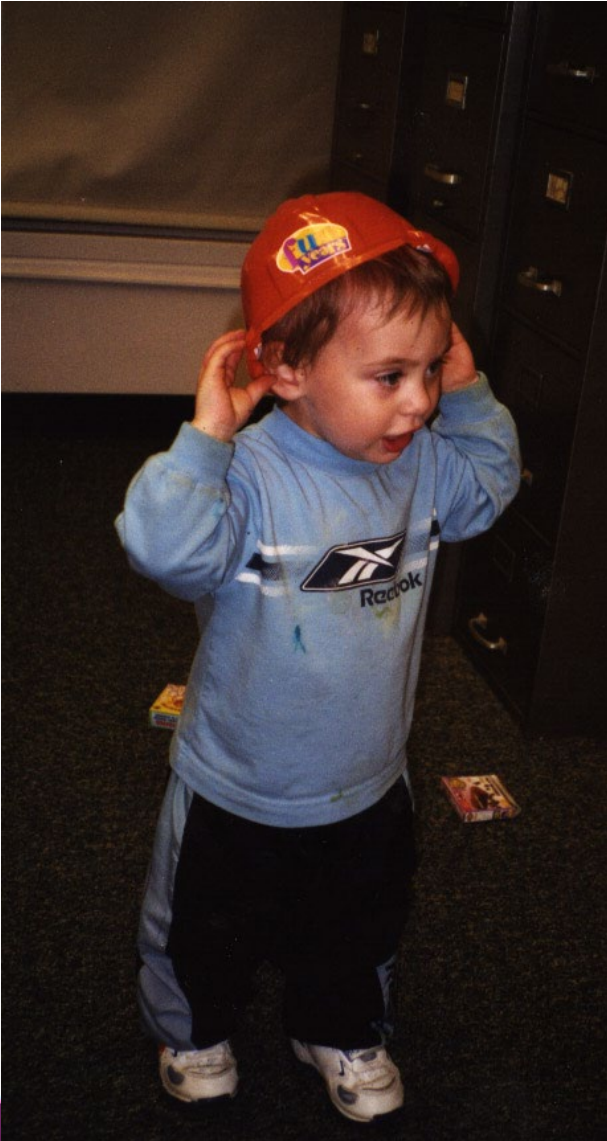
# Direct and Natural Reinforcers: 2 Keys to PRT

- If you can do these two things, you're about 80% of the way there...

1) Identify the natural reinforcer.

2) Get control of the natural reinforcer

# Peter

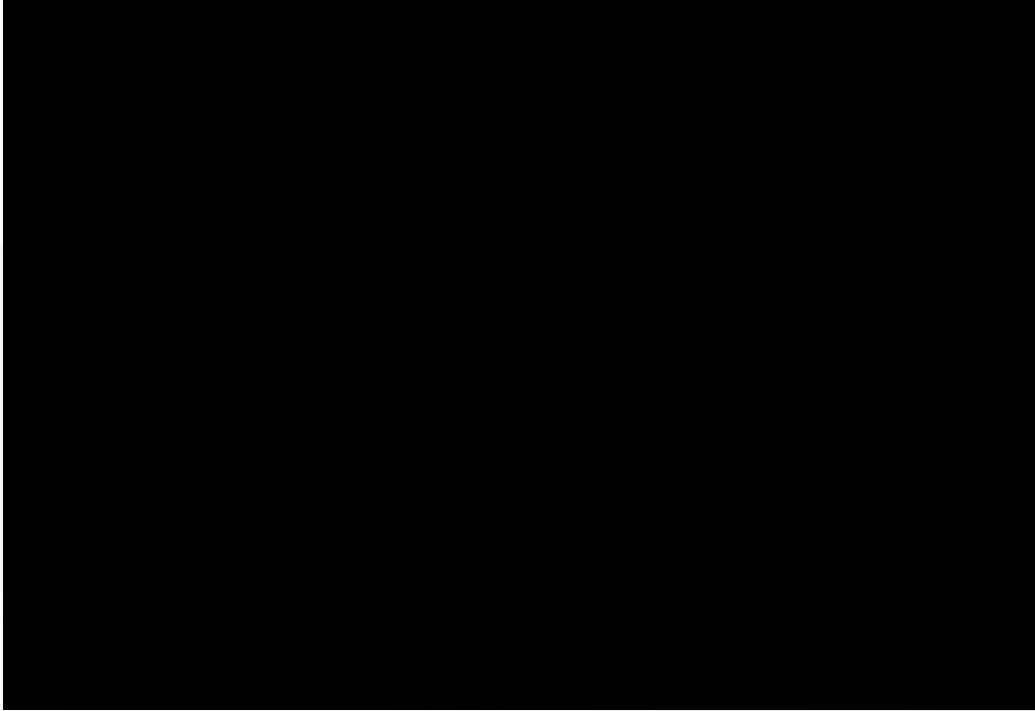


n  
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# Writing Assignment (Baseline):

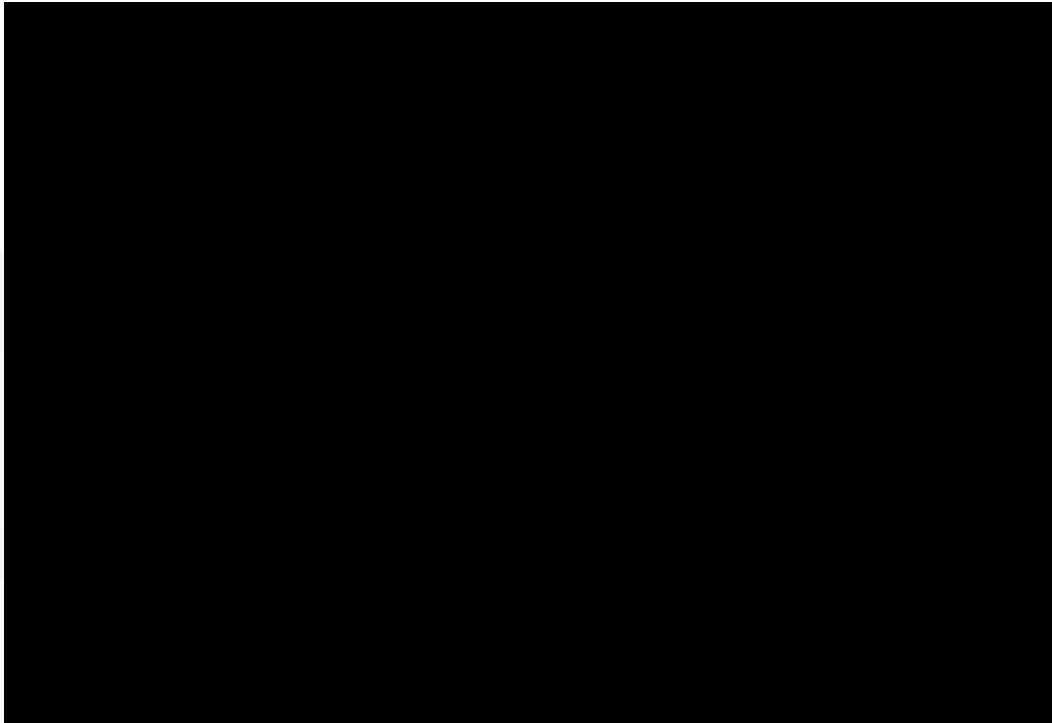
## 5 words that start with the letter “C”





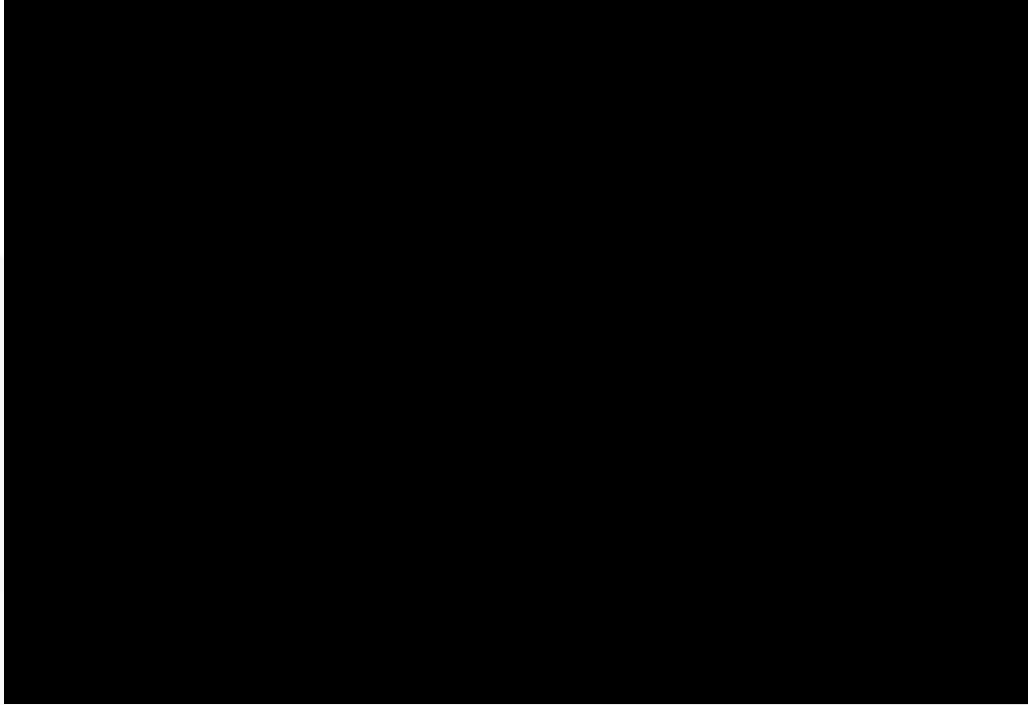


# Writing Assignment (Intervention):



Cootie Cootie

# Writing Assignment (Intervention Implemented by Aide):



brown

b r o w n

blue

b l e

red

r e d

yellow

y e l l o w

water

Water

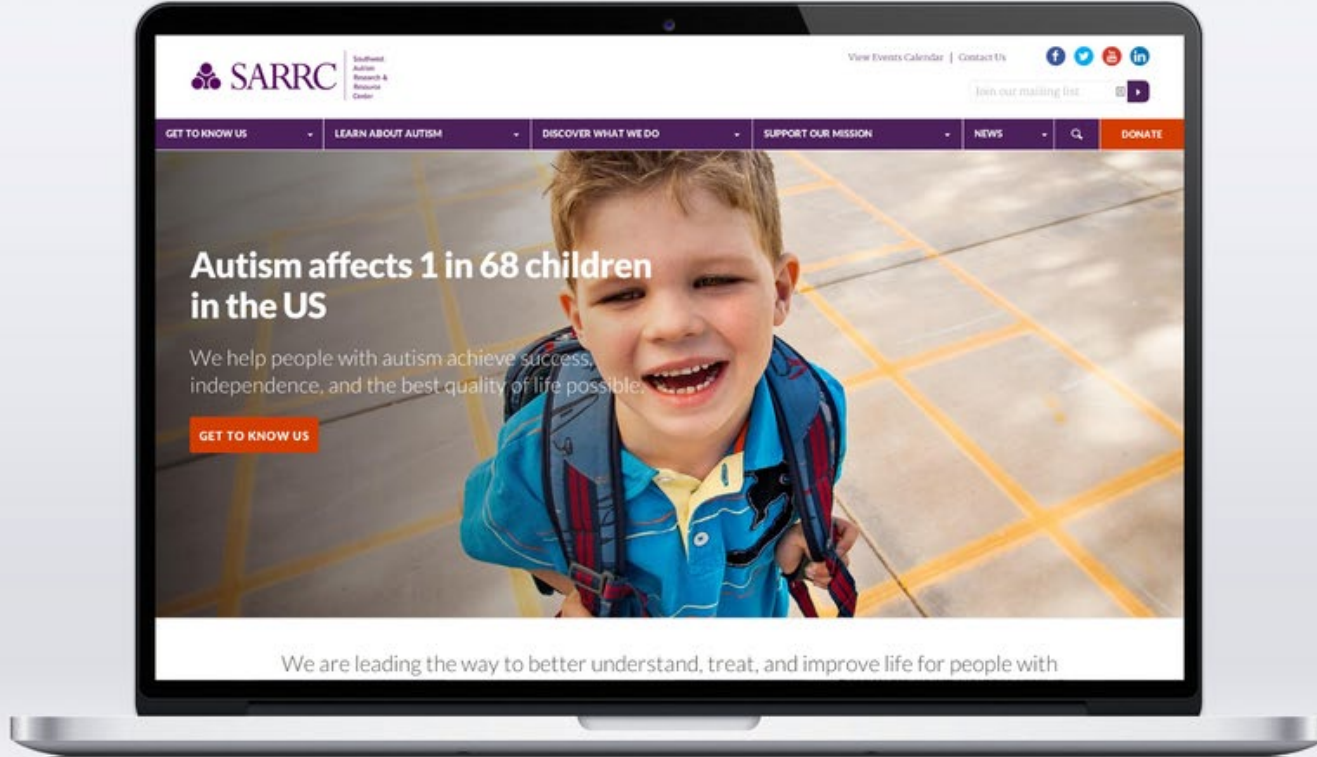
orange

Onange

green  
~~green~~

blue

blue



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