

Early intervention delivery methods for New Zealand children with autism

Current practices versus parental ideals.



Carla Watkin & Dr Hannah Waddington



Early Intervention in NZ: What we know

Nature of Services offered, e.g.

- Speech & Language Therapy
- ABA
- Psychologist

Who may deliver interventions (Zwaigenbaum et al., 2015)

- Educators
- Other Professionals
- Parents trained by one of the above
- Combination

Ministry of Education (2019) focus:

- MOE encourage their intervention providers to deliver EI in collaboration with parents/educators

Parent Perspectives on Early intervention: What we know

- Research in this area is currently limited
 - Looks predominately at types

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Internationally:

Studies suggest SLT is the most commonly accessed EI by parents.

(Denne, Hastings, & Hughes, 2018; Green et al., 2006; Salomone et al, 2016).

Parent Perspectives on Early intervention: What we know



Nationally:

- Funding (or lack of) is a barrier to the types of EI's parents select for their child (Shepherd et al., 2018)
- SLT is most commonly accessed EI (Kasilingam, Waddington, & van der Meer, 2019; Shepherd et al., 2018)

Parent perspectives on delivery methods?

- Appears to be No current research

Importance of gaining this knowledge



Parent involvement in EI considered vital (Burnett & Borgeo, 2012; Hume, Bellini, & Pratt, 2005; Zwaigenbaum et al., 2015)



Parent perspectives important as information can be used to best support engagement



For delivery methods: we can learn whether our current delivery methods align with parental ideals/expectations.

Current Study Focus

- How are parents reporting services are currently being delivered?
- What do parents perceive to be the ideal way for a service to be delivered?
- How do the two compare?

Method

Data Collection: Online survey conducted by Nilu Kasilingam et al. (2019)

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Data Collection: Internet-based survey conducted by Nilu Kasilingam et al. (2019).

Participants: 63 parents of young NZ children (<6 years) with ASD

Selection of Service types: Early Interventions that were accessed by 10% or more of participants.

- Speech & Language Therapy
- ABA-Based Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Psychologist
- Teacher/Education support worker
- General parent education/training
- Autism specific parent education/training

Delivery Method Options

• Parents could choose one or more.

Professional Advisory

- Group Advisory
- Advisory 1:1
- Advisory with modelling 1:1

Professional working with the child


- Direct work with the child
- Group work with the child

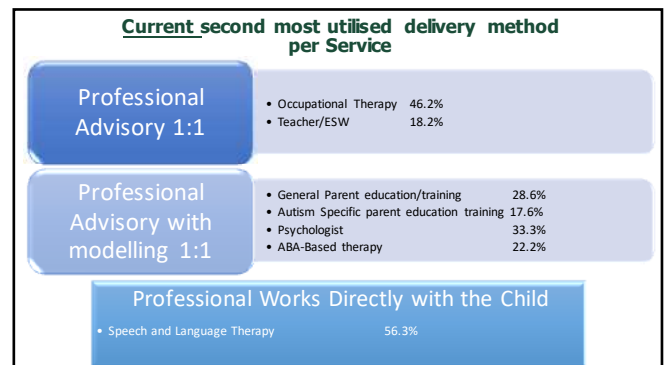
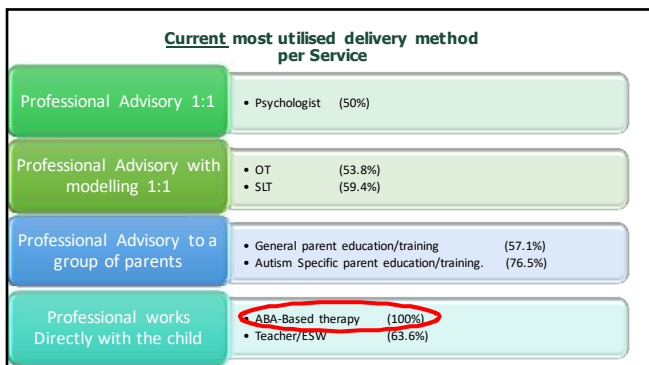
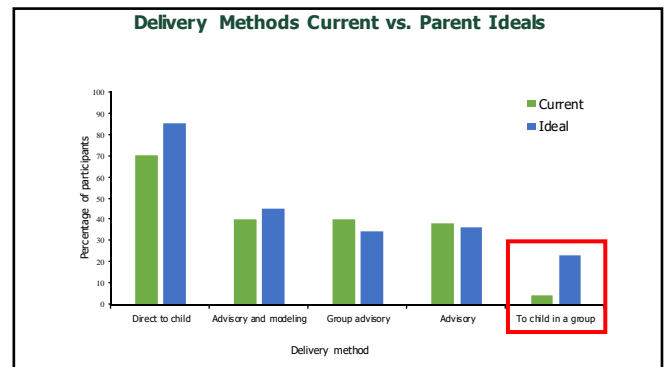
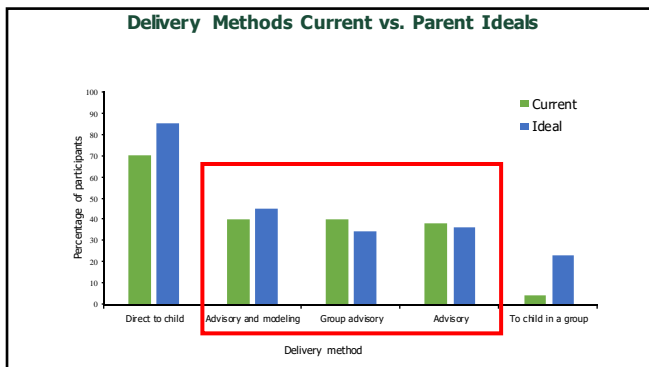
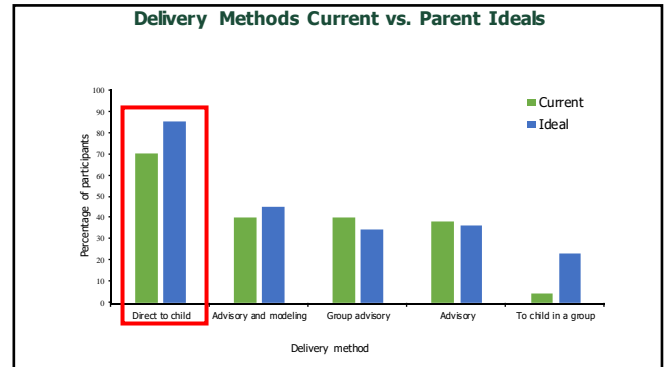
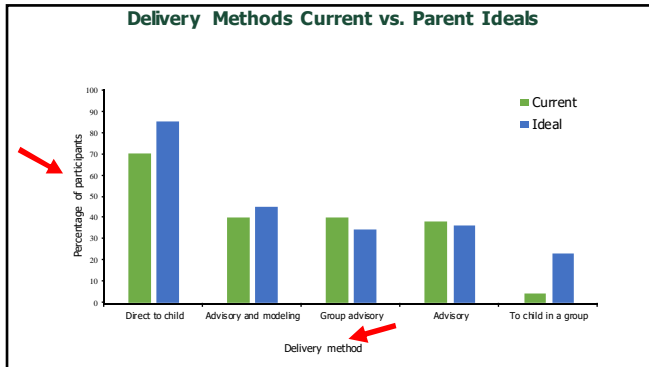
Early intervention delivery methods

Current practices versus parental ideals.

Terminology

- Parental ideals
 - Parent/Child not currently receiving a particular intervention (e.g. SLT) but parent would like their child to.
 - Perceived Ideal delivery method of that intervention.





Parent Most Ideal delivery method per Service

Professional Advisory to a group of Parents

- General Parent education/training 57.1%

Professional Advisory with Modelling 1:1

- Autism Specific Parent education/training 63.6%

Professional works Directly with the Child

- Speech and Language Therapy 96.4%
- Teacher/Education Support Worker 83.3%
- Psychologist 80%
- ABA-Based therapy 72.2%
- Occupational Therapy 63%

Parent Secondary Ideal delivery method

Professional Advisory to a group of Parents

- Autism Specific Parent Education/Training 50%

Professional Advisory 1:1

- ABA-Based Therapy 38.9%

Professional Advisory with Modelling 1:1

- General parent education/training 50%
- ABA-Based Therapy 38.9%
- Speech and Language Therapy 32.1%
- Occupational Therapy 37%
- Psychologist 36%

Child in a group

- Teacher/Education Support worker 13.3%

Current vs. Ideal Delivery Methods

Not a direct comparison

Does not look at current delivery methods of an intervention vs. current preferences.

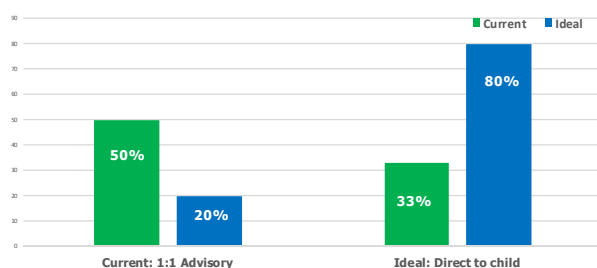
Can tell us if there are differences between what parents expect or perceive to be ideal and our current practices.



Table: Current vs. ideal Delivery Method

Service type	Current Delivery Method	Ideal Delivery Method	Match?
General Parent Education/Training	Group Advisory	Group Advisory	✓
Autism specific Parent Education/Training	Group Advisory	1:1 Advisory with Modelling	✗
ABA-Based Therapy	Direct to child	Direct to child	✓
Teacher/ESW	Direct to child	Direct to child	✓
Psychologist	1:1 Advisory	Direct to child	✗
Occupational Therapy	1:1 Advisory with Modelling	Direct to child	✗
SLT	1:1 Advisory with Modelling	Direct to child	✗

Intervention By Psychologist: Current vs. Ideal Delivery Method



Note on Advisory

- Does not mean Advisory is unwanted!
- Delivery direct to child just wanted even more.
- 56% parents see some form of 1:1 advisory as an ideal delivery method

Practical Implications

- Provides understanding of parent perceptions, allowing us to know what a parent/s may be expecting
- Use as a Conversation Starter
- Consider combining 1:1 intervention direct to the child with a form of 1:1 advisory



Future directions



Direct comparison with larger sample
What factors impact a parent's selection of preferred delivery method?



Impact on parents of not receiving a service in their perceived ideal way (e.g. ^ stress?)



ECE teacher preferences

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