Considerations for Effective Implementation

5 Elements of Fidelity

- **Student Engagement**
  - How attentive and involved are the students in this intervention or activity?

- **Adherence**
  - How well do we stick to the plan, the students in this curriculum, or assessment?
  - Are the intervention and assessment delivered consistently across different teachers and settings?

- **Program Specificity**
  - How well is the intervention defined and different from other interventions?

- **Quality of Delivery**
  - Does the interventionist have the necessary training, knowledge, and skills to deliver the intervention correctly?
  - How well is the intervention, assessment, or instruction delivered?
  - Are quality teaching practices used consistently and with appropriate intensity across all sessions or interventionists?

- **Exposure/Duration**
  - Does the schedule allow the intervention to be delivered for the recommended dosage (duration and frequency)?
  - How often does a student receive an intervention? How long does it last?
  - Is the student regularly attending school?
  - Is the teacher regularly available to support instruction?
  - Did any factors prevent the student from receiving the intervention as intended?

**Why fidelity?** If we don’t implement critical components of an intervention with consistency, we cannot link student outcomes to the instruction provided. Fidelity can help us to determine the effectiveness of an intervention, and identify if a student requires more intensive supports.

**Source:** Dane and Schneider (1998); Gresham, Gansle, and Noell (1993); O’Donnell (2008).
References


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