

3-YEAR-OLD LEARNS TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

meet

YITTY RIMMER

Yitty Rimmer is an Occupational Therapist who works with children with ASD and other special needs in her practice. Since using the Kebbi system with her patients, she's seen an instant connection and marked improvement.

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takeaways

- kids naturally connect with the robot
- this non-verbal patient became verbal
- the robot proved effective even with the challenge of inconsistent therapy

ABOUT YITTY RIMMER

Yitty Rimmer is an Occupational Therapist who has worked with numerous children, including those with sensory, neurodevelopmental, cognition, endurance, and balance issues. She has been using the MOVIA Kebbi system with outstanding results. She points out that “[the children are] more receptive – perhaps because [the robot] doesn't raise her voice. She has a smile on her face but there are no emotional responses. They don't have to interpret the facial expressions.”

In the beginning, she used the robot towards the end of the session. Lately, however, she has begun using it for transitions when the children come for therapy behaving defiantly and without any interest in working. When Ms. Rimmer turns on the robot to start a session, the children respond extremely well; it naturally deescalates their mood and calms them down. “The robot gives [the children] a good vibe,” Ms. Rimmer remarks. “When the robot asks, ‘Are you ready,’ they answer, ‘YES!’ The kids love the robot; it's amazing. They know it's not real,” but, “when the robot asks questions, they respond. It's funny; I'm curious to see what will be the long-term result.” Robot-Assisted Instruction (RAI) allows Ms. Rimmer to reinforce the areas she is focusing on in therapy and easily incorporate the lessons into her intervention.

THE CHALLENGE

One of Ms. Rimmer's patients, a three-year-old boy diagnosed with George Syndrome, was nonverbal when he started. He struggled with a low attention span and self-control, and he would run around a room touching different objects that interested him. He was placed in a mainstream playgroup. Because of frequent illnesses, he was unable to have consistent therapy.

HOW MOVIA HELPED

Starting in December 2020, Ms. Rimmer began giving her three-year-old patient 30-minute sessions, with 10 minutes devoted to RAI. Ms. Rimmer's patient was excited to see the robot, having an immediate positive response and engagement. When he would see the robot, he would become physically excited and begin to point at it. During the first session, where he was introduced to the robot, he was focused and engaged. Kebbi guided him through different activities that allowed him to practice topics such as farm animals, colors, and bubble games. Now, only a few months later, he walks in and follows directions such as pulling down a zipper to take off his coat. Once non-verbal, he is now able to say “robot” clearly and speaks more coherently in general. When working with the Kebbi system, he can imitate what he is hearing and repeat words such as “barn,” “door,” “dog,” “chicken,” and “pig.” Even with the lack of consistency in therapy sessions because of his frequent illnesses, he is still responding positively and showing marked improvement. Overall, Ms. Rimmer has seen advances in areas such as focus, engagement, behaviors, fine motor skills, speech, communication, daily living skills, following directions, and practicing self-control. His mother is extremely pleased with his improvement.

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