

THE ROBOT SOOTHED HER DEFIANT BEHAVIOR

meet

LISA LICHTENSTEIN

Lisa Lichtenstein is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Santa Monica, and a Clinical Director at a special education school in Los Angeles.

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- *lisa lichtenstein*

takeaways

- the homepal soothed the defiant behavior
- children with asd do not have an inherent resistance to the robot
- the homepal is changing the lives of her patients

ABOUT LISA LICHTENSTEIN

Lisa Lichtenstein is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Santa Monica and a Clinical Director at a special education school in Los Angeles. As clinical director, she has continued to work with ASD and special abilities students. Since she's integrated Robot-Assisted Instruction (RAI) into her treatment interventions, she's observed significant progress with her clients. Lisa Lichtenstein has been working with the ASD population since her undergraduate years at UCSB, with a renowned Autism clinician and researched published author. With over 20 years of experience, she has noticed a progressive shift in her cliental upon utilizing RAI in her practice.

THE CHALLENGE

Lisa explains, "I've been working with a low-functioning adolescent I'll call C. She has tendencies to yell loudly and at times throw objects. She displays resistant behavior toward prompts to engage in activities. She perseverates and will scream incessantly for an activity or object she desires."

HOW MOVIA HELPED

Lisa began using RAI with C to bypass her emotional dis-regulation: she chose lessons that included C using the tablet with the Kebbi HomePal instructing and guiding C throughout the lesson. When she would be in the middle of a screaming episode, she would get louder when Lisa and other adults would prompt her to decrease her volume or to join an activity. Lisa then decided to start the RAI lesson. In a matter of 1-2 minutes she came up to the tablet and began interacting and watching the pictures and lessons displayed on the tablet. She was responsive and it appeared that the combination of the HomePal guiding her to interact with the lesson on the tablet (identifying shapes and colors) soothed her, replacing her abreactive defiant behavior. When the lesson was finished, C was calmer and followed appropriate prompts and communication. Lisa states, "It makes sense that ASD individuals respond immediately toward the robot as they don't have inherent resistance to it. ASD children, however, have learned resistance towards adults as they are chronically expected to behave in a world where they don't fit in or feel comfortable, with social skills and affection, for example. The robot has no agenda and instead the child can and does often take the lead with choosing lessons or topics of conversation. I'm grateful that I saw RAI on social media as it has positively changed the lives of the special education children I treat. And the joy component children have with RAI speaks volumes."

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