**USING TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIVING IN A SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM**

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**Objectives:** Social inclusion is a strong indicator of successful quality of life outcomes (QOL) for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) (Cobigo, Ouellet-Kuntz, Lysaght & Martin, 2012).  Barriers to social inclusion for persons with IDD have been identified, including functioning level, adaptive living skills, and staff involvement (Abbot & McConkey, 2006). This project aims to decrease social isolation and increase community participation by increasing adaptive skill development and functioning and decreasing staff involvement through the use of mobile devices, apps, and techniques from applied behaviour analysis (ABA).

**Methods:** 7 participants with IDD living in supported-independent living were involved. Skills to reduce social isolation were identified using the individual’s Individual Support Plan (ISP) and were informed by the completion of the Support Intensity Scale (SIS). Mobile devices (i.e., iPad or iPhone) were matched with the participants needs and desires, and a specialized app was selected to match the skill. Direct Support Workers were provided with one day behavioral skills training (BST) regarding the principles of applied behavior analysis; specifically, principles such as reinforcement, prompting, chaining and fading. Two multiple-probe across participants designs were delivered concurrently, whereby an independent observer took probe data on the total duration of the target skill and the duration of direct support provided. A percentage of direct support was graphed weekly--allowing for a visual comparison of pre and post changes following the introduction of technology.

**Results:** Data collection is ongoing. To date, three participants have completed participation in the project. On average, participants required 72% direct support for the target skill set during baseline, before receiving the mobile device and app. All participants exhibited 0% of direct support within a week or two of having the technology.

**Discussion/Conclusions:** Technology and apps provide a socially valid and individualized alternative to direct staff support. Combining techniques from applied behavior analysis with the benefits of technology, individuals with IDD have been able to complete tasks independently- leading to increased skill development, decreased staff support and increased community participation.

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