

## ***5 Reasons Why Insurance Companies Should Cover Parent Implemented Models\* For Autism Intervention***

### ***Reason 1: Unmet Need***

- Given ASD prevalence (1 in 59), *too many young children (18m to 5 y) in the U.S. are not being served* through therapist delivered interventions under current state ASD laws. (See Mandell et al, 2016 attached)
- PIM DRB are cost effective, easy to disseminate, have high satisfaction ratings, and can effectively and efficiently serve thousands of young children with ASD (Click: [‘Evaluation of the Ohio PLAY Project—Espe-Scherwindt et al’](#)).

### ***Reason 2: PIM DRB Are Evidence-based, Intensive, and Cost effective***

- PIM DRB are evidence based (See references).
- PIM DRB can provide 10-20 hours of intensive, 1 on 1, engaging ASD intervention per week, meeting criteria for intensity ([NRC, 2001](#)).
- At similar levels of intensity, PIM DRB can be provided at 1/10 the cost of therapist delivered models (e.g. ABA).

### ***Reason 3: PIM DRB Uniquely Address Social Deficits***

- According to the DSM 5, ASD is characterized primarily by social deficits.
- PIM DRB focus primarily on social interaction and emotional development of young children with ASD by empowering parents to provide intervention.

### ***Reason 4: PIM DRB Can Be Covered by Existing Insurance Codes***

- PIM DRB are typically delivered by licensed medical professionals including MSW, SLP, OTs, MD, or psychologists.
- Therefore, PIM DRB can be covered under either *behavioral* health insurance codes or specific ASD intervention codes without the need of credentialing providers.
- Currently codes exist for PIM services in various states. See attached codes.

### ***Reason 5: PIM DRB for ASD is Good Insurance Policy and Good Public Policy***

- If PIM DRB offer intensive, early intervention for children less than 6 years of age with special effectiveness for children less than 3 years of age,
- If PIM DRB offer a new treatment option complementary to other services,
- If PIM DRB are evidence-based, cost effective, and easily disseminated,
- Then insurance companies should cover PIM DRB as good insurance policy and good public policy.

\*Parent Implemented Models that use Developmental Relationship-based approach (PIM DRB)  
A.) Are child centered, play-based, and focus on functional (social) development; B.) Do not use operant conditioning as a primary method; and C.) Coach parents, with the child present, to provide the intensive intervention.