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National Report Includes Practices Developed by Professor Durand

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (April 21, 2011) – The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (NPDC on ASD) released a national report identifying 24 evidence-based practices for working effectively with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Two of these practices functional behavioral assessment and functional communication training were pioneered by V. Mark Durand, professor of psychology at USF St. Petersburg.

Durand created one of the first functional behavioral assessment instruments (the Motivation Assessment Scale) and it is highlighted in this national report. The treatment for severe behavior problems Durand developed (called functional communication training) is now used throughout the world and is one of the few research-based treatments demonstrated to be effective with this population.

While this report is specific to autism spectrum disorders, the work has been used with many populations that have behavioral problems, including individuals with head injuries or ADHD. The practices are applicable for psychologists, teachers, parents, group home staff members and others.

Evidence-based practice (EBP) briefs for these 24 practices have been developed and are available online. These include an overview of the practice, directions for implementation, an implementation checklist, the evidence base for the practice, and supplemental materials.

-USF St. Petersburg-

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