Cultural adaptation of parent-implemented early communication interventions: A scoping review

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Background & Rationale

- When parent-implemented early communication interventions are delivered to culturally and linguistically diverse families, there is little guidance regarding what elements to culturally adapt. Cultural adaptation is essential to ensure that interventions are ecologically valid and delivered in a culturally sensitive manner.
- Cultural adaptation frameworks can help clinicians analyze what intervention elements were adapted, and how the adaptation process was carried out. Although these frameworks have been applied in fields such as psychology ad behaviour analysis, and recently for some areas of SLP, they have not yet been applied to parent-implemented SLP interventions.
- This scoping review addresses this gap by identifying parent-implemented early communication interventions which have been culturally adapted and describing which intervention components were adapted.

Focal Research Question

What aspects of parent-implemented communication interventions for children under age five are adapted when delivered to culturally and linguistically diverse families?

Method

Search Strategy:
Database search conducted in CINAHL, Medline, Embase, and PsycINFO in September 2020.
Supplementary search: hand searching of references, grey literature search.

Categories of Search Terms:
1. Agent of intervention (e.g., parent)
2. Young children (e.g., toddler, preschool)
3. Communication intervention (e.g., language, speech)
4. Culture-related terms (e.g., list of specific cultural groups)

Inclusion Criteria
A. Parents are the primary agent of the intervention
B. At least some children are under age five
C. Intervention is focused on communication
D. Implemented with cultural group different than originally designed for
E. Peer-reviewed, published in English after 1995

Charting, Extraction, & Synthesis of Data
- Developed a data charting form, extracted by two authors (MA, SM), with over 95% agreement
- Population, intervention, study, and cultural adaptation data extracted using the Ecological Validity Framework (EVF)
- Data synthesized with descriptive summaries

Conclusions

- Cultural adaptation frameworks, like the EVF, are useful tools to guide adaptation, but can be difficult to operationalize.
- Additional research and guidelines are needed to support cultural adaptation processes and reporting for parent-implemented communication interventions.
- Using cultural adaptation frameworks to specify how and what to adapt may support clinician efforts to deliver family-centred interventions (i.e., align with goals, beliefs, and values), especially if family collaboration and feedback are integrated.

References & Contact Information


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