



Topic 9: Implementation Fidelity

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What are the factors associated with high level implementation fidelity?
 - Receive training from staff with knowledge and experience with providing and monitoring implementation fidelity
 - Adhere to the instructional procedures of the practice or program
 - Implement the practice or program as frequently as recommended and for the recommended amount of time
2. How do I maintain fidelity when taking intervention data if the intervention needs to be changed?

Interventions sometimes do not work and end up needing to be adjusted through different means such as frequency, materials, and setting. To limit the number of changes to the evidence-based intervention and optimize the effectiveness, specific student learning outcomes must be used with the intervention. Implementation fidelity must be examined and discussed with the IEP team before beginning the intervention.

Outcome information also should be collected before the start of the intervention. During the intervention, data should be consistently analyzed, results reported, and information maintained. If a change in the intervention is deemed necessary, the intervention process should begin again.

More information on implementation fidelity from James Madison University: [Implementation Fidelity Graphic](#)

3. How do I avoid changing student interventions?

The interventions we use are not meant to be permanent. Every day, the needs of students change and the way we respond cannot always be the same. This is why the interventions we



use must never be a one-size-fits all approach. If the intervention fits the context, it is likely that the intervention will maintain fidelity until it's time to move on to the next one.

4. What tools can special education professionals use to maintain implementation fidelity?

Certain steps must be taken consistently to have fidelity in interventions including identifying critical aspects of the practice, naming both the gold standards and harmful variations of each feature, and acknowledging and addressing implicit bias. The Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP) Fidelity Data Checklist can be utilized to outline targeted behaviors, prevention strategies and replacement skills that will be taught, and consequence strategies and effects on behavior. See here for more information on PBSP: [Positive Behavior Support Plan Fidelity Data Checklist](#)