

What is Implementation Fidelity¹

Implementation is the process of establishing an existing evidence-based intervention or program in a school, family, or community setting. One key to successful implementation is ensuring what is commonly known as intervention *fidelity*. Fidelity is an indicator of how closely an intervention follows the same process and activities of an original program. Fidelity can be measured and compared to previous or future efforts to deliver the intervention or practice in the same manner.

Why is Implementation Fidelity Important?

- Implementing with fidelity ensures the same type of positive outcomes for participants as the original implementations
- Interventions are often less effective when they are altered significantly from their original form

Monitoring Implementation Fidelity

- Document intervention activities using a predesigned checklist with the core components that are included in each curriculum or intervention
- Or direct observation from a trained evaluator can observe live intervention sessions and rate an intervention adherence to program fidelity

Changes to Implementation Fidelity

- If changes need to be made to the original program in any way it is best to contact the original developers of the intervention to receive their consultation on what changes you may make without significantly altering the chance of receiving the same positive outcomes. Contact information is typically available on the internet.

¹This section is adapted from Jenson & Bender (2014). *Preventing child and adolescent problem behavior. Evidence-based strategies in schools, families, and communities*. New York: Oxford University Press.