

# **NeuroRehab Evidence Database**

Target Area: Challenging Behaviour

Neurological Group: Traumatic Brain Injury

Wesolowski et al. (1999). Mini-breaks: The use of escape on a fixed-time schedule to reduce unauthorized breaks from vocational training sites for individuals with brain injury. *Behav Intervent*, 14(3): 163-170.

RoBiNT score -12/30

## Method / Results

### Design

• **Study Type:** SCD. Multiple baseline across participants.

 Population: n=3. All participants described as having "significant frontal lobe damage" following TBI (automobile accidents).

Jim: male, age 19.Ralph: male, age 16.Mark: male, age 24.

• **Setting:** Vocational training program.

## Target behaviour measure/s:

Number of unauthorised breaks from vocational site.

#### Primary outcome measure/s:

• No other standardised measure.

**Results:** Graphed data provided, but no statistical analysis conducted. All 3 participants showed reduction in unauthorised absconding: at baseline had means of 2.3, 2 and 4 unauthorised breaks per day respectively and at the end of treatment all had 0 unauthorised breaks, maintained at 6 and 12 month follow-ups.

## Rehabilitation Program

**Aim:** To decrease the frequency of leaving the vocational site without authorisation, using noncontingent escape.

**Materials:** Written sheet (8.5 x 11 inches) with times of scheduled minibreaks written in large letters and posted at each person's workstation.

#### Treatment Plan:

- **Duration:** Jim: 40 days, Ralph: 43 days, Mark: 31 days.
- Procedure: No therapy sessions per se; rather therapy procedures applied throughout the training program: 9:00am – 3:30pm.

#### Content:

- Vocational instructors were initially trained in ignoring participants when they left the worksite and praising them for returning on time from their breaks.
- Implemented noncontingent escape, by explaining to participants that they would have minibreaks occurring for 10 minutes each hour.
- The schedule of minibreaks was written onto the paper and posted onto the workstation. The vocational instructor prompted the participant to take his break if this was not self-initiated.