Transitioning Children with Autism from a Discrete Trial Classroom to a Group Learning Environment

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The Purpose of Our Project

To help children who will be transitioning from a discrete trial learning environment to a group learning environment.

Some children in discrete trial learning environments do not have the skill in their repertoire to sit for long periods of time without a teacher or tutor right next to them. Obtaining this skill will help them succeed when there are other children in the classroom.
DTT vs Group Learning Environment

- **Discrete Trial Training:**
  - Tutor works one-on-one with student

- **Group Learning Environment:**
  - Two or more students work with one teacher
Proximity Procedure

❖ Sit in chair for at least 5 minutes while the instructor is at least 5 feet away.

➢ Included a prompter to aid with any out of seat or problem behavior

➢ 5 minute sessions and usually 4 sessions per week with both children
Proximity Procedure

❖ Setting

➢ Study was conducted in various classrooms with a table and two chairs
➢ Tutor sat across the table from the student

❖ My role was the tutor

➢ Gave directions to the children
➢ Delivered reinforcement for correct trials
Phases 1-5

❖ Phase 1

➢ Tutor was 1 foot away from student and delivered directions to student from this distance

➢ Prompter was directly behind student and out of sight

❖ Phases 2-5

➢ Same as above but the distance between tutor and student increased to 2 feet, then 3 feet, then 4 and 5 feet with every phase.
Fading Out the Prompter

❖ Phases 6-8

➢ Phase 6: the prompter one foot away
➢ Phase 7: the prompter three feet away
➢ Phase 8: the prompter five feet away
Phase Change Criteria

80% for 3 consecutive sessions

90% for 2 consecutive sessions

After these criteria were met for all 8 phases, the child had mastered the procedure.
Pictures
Proximity Procedure (Child A)

Percentage of Time on Task

Sessions

Baseline, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, =P8, M
Results

❖ Participant 1:
  ➢ Baseline: Average number of correct trials was 50%
  ➢ Phase 8: Average number of correct trials was 89%

❖ Participant 2:
  ➢ Baseline: Average number of correct trials was 44%
  ➢ Phase 8: Average number of correct trials was 87%
Other Findings

❖ Change in responding when conducted in different settings
  ➢ Quiet room vs noisy room

❖ Change in responding when conducted with different reinforcers
  ➢ Toys vs iPad
My Experience

- Learned about the process of conducting a research study
  - Planning, HSIRB, Making changes to procedure
- Enjoyed making the transition from discrete trial learning environment to group learning environment easier for the children
Comments? Questions? Thoughts?