

Nicholette Christodoulou

Major: Behavioral
Psychology

Minor: Business and
Family Life Education

Plans for Future: Attend
Michigan University
BATS

Area of Interest: Verbal
Behavior and Autism



Increasing Vocalizations in Children with Autism

Nicholette Christodoulou

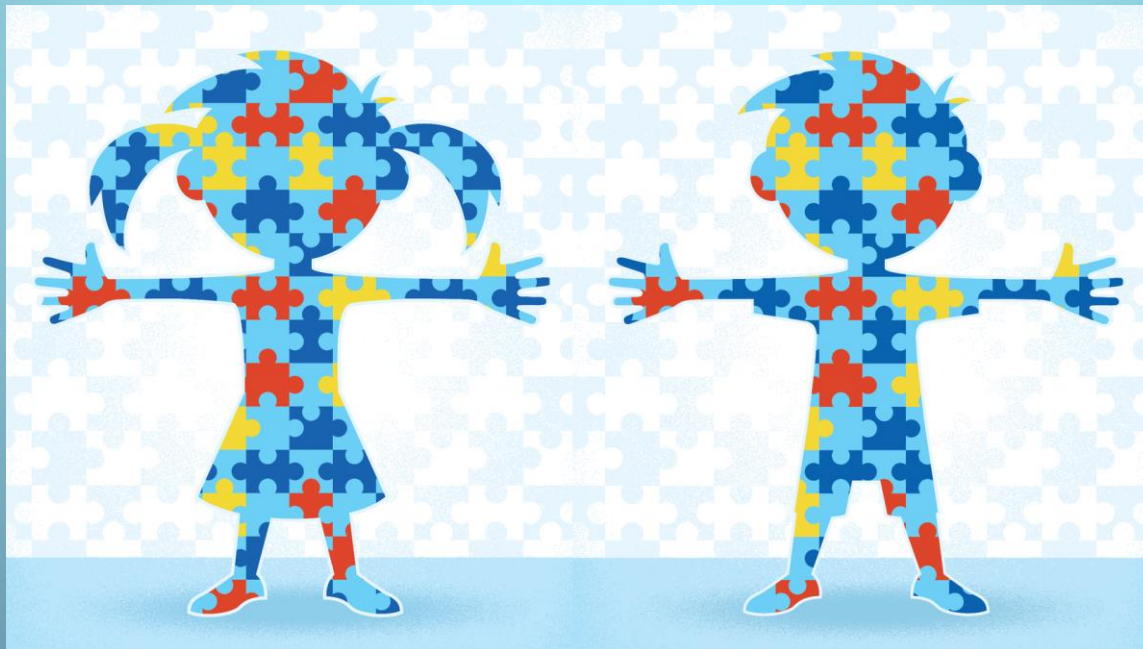
Anna Woodhams

Introduction

- Some children with autism show little to no progress with typical echoic procedures in the classroom
- We assessed an alternative method for increasing vocalizations and echoic behavior
- Limited research on interventions with this population

Intervention

- Baseline
 - 30 minute observations of child's normal work environment
 - Early sounds echoic pretest



Intervention

- Phase 1
 - 5 minute sessions
 - All appropriate sounds reinforced
 - Whining/crying or vocal stereotypy not reinforced



Phase 1

- Video

Intervention

- Phase 2
 - 5 minute sessions; first 3 minutes all appropriate sounds reinforced, last 2 minutes all sounds except dominant sounds reinforced



Intervention

- Phase 3
 - Echoic procedure
 - 5 target sounds
 - Selected from dominant sounds in phase 1 and 2
- Phase change Criteria
 - 3 consecutive sessions at 80% or above, or 2 consecutive sessions at 90% or above

Phase 3

- Video

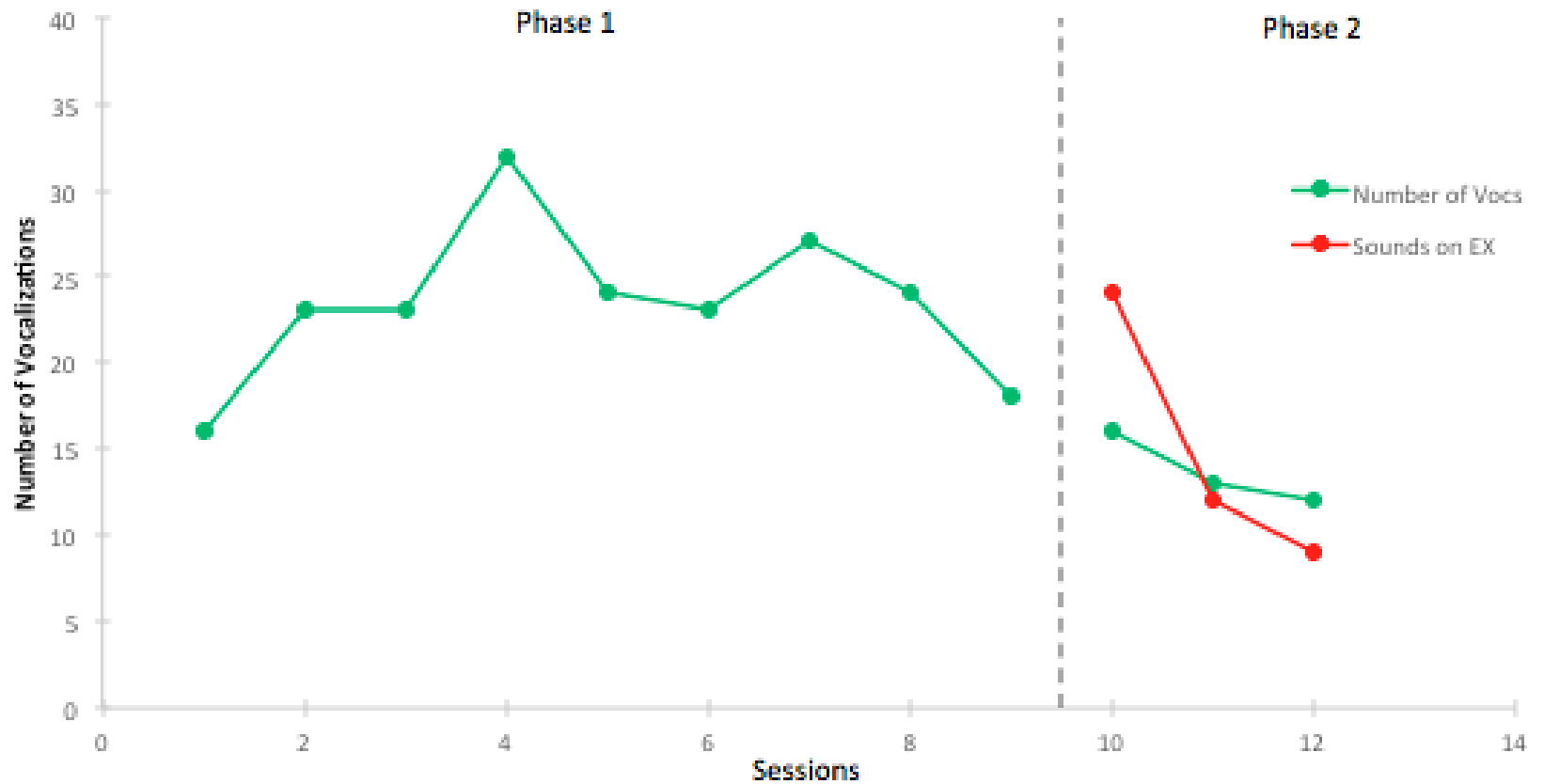
My Roles

- IOA data
- Graphing
- Video taping



Jeremy

Increasing Vocalizations in Children with Autism

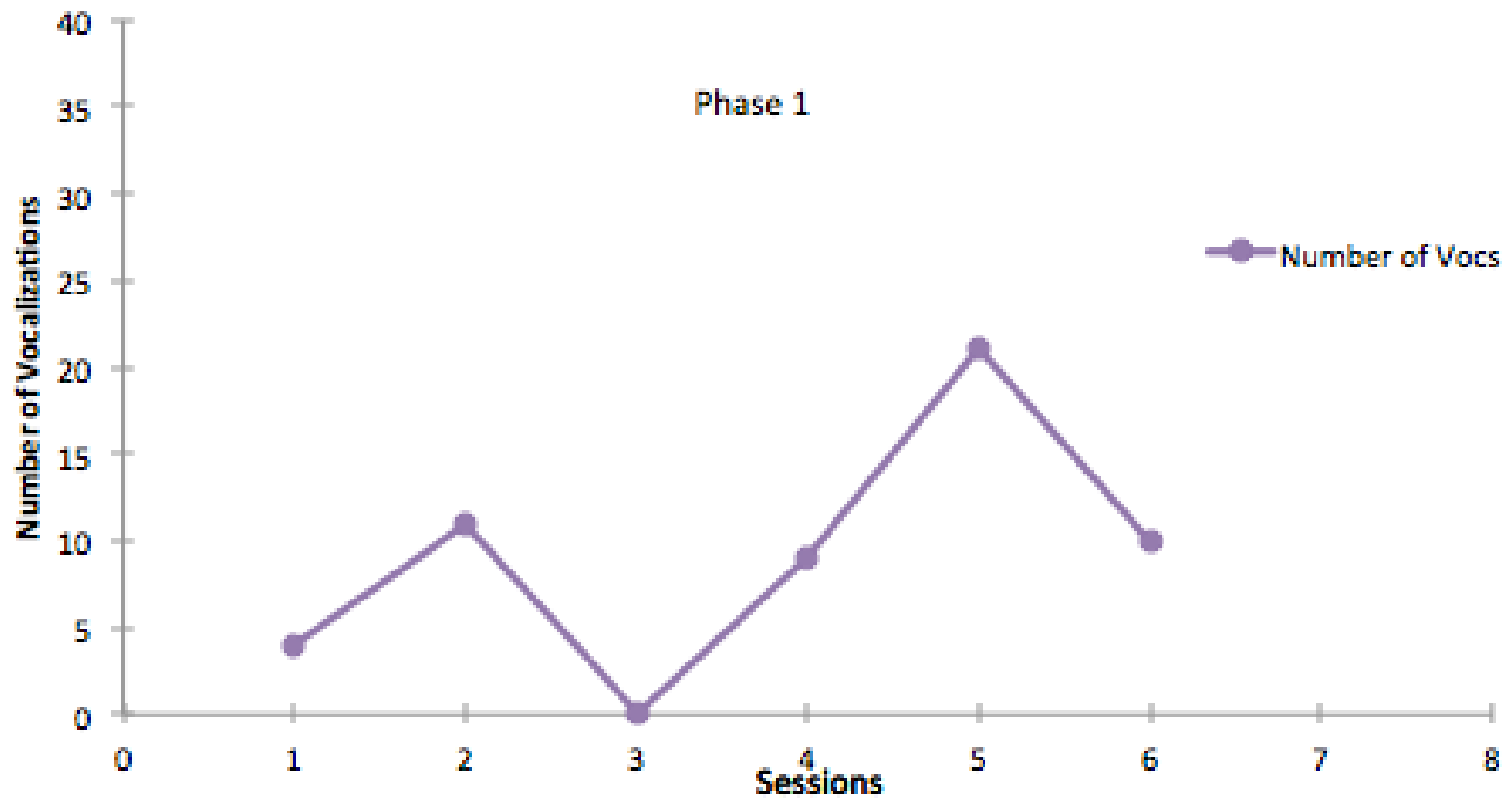


Jeremy

		Phase 3			
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	
Ah	+	-	+	+	
Mama	-	-	-	+	
Dada	-	-	+	+	
Baba	-	-	+	+	
Puppy	-	-	+	+	
Shark	-	-	+	+	
Wee	-	-	+	+	
Sha	+	-	+	+	
Go	+	-	+	+	
Yuh	-	-	+	+	
Percentage	30%	0%	90%	100%	

Miles

Increasing Vocalizations in Children with Autism



Results

- Phase 1
 - Rapid increase in overall vocalizations
- Phase 2
 - Decrease in sound on extinction
 - Increase in variety of appropriate sounds
- Echoic Test
- Phase 3
 - Met phase change criteria in four sessions

Discussion

- Sessions held in quiet rooms with minimal noise and distractions
- Higher rates of reinforcement for making specific sounds



Discussion

- “Mand-like” sounds
- Is it necessary for the child to mand before learning to echo?



My Experience

- Learned valuable research skills
- Completed Honors Thesis
- Improved writing skills
- Time-management skills
- Improved graphing skills
- Special thank you to Anna!



Questions/Comments?

