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

— AJ Ennis —  
Rachel Ferbezar

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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.



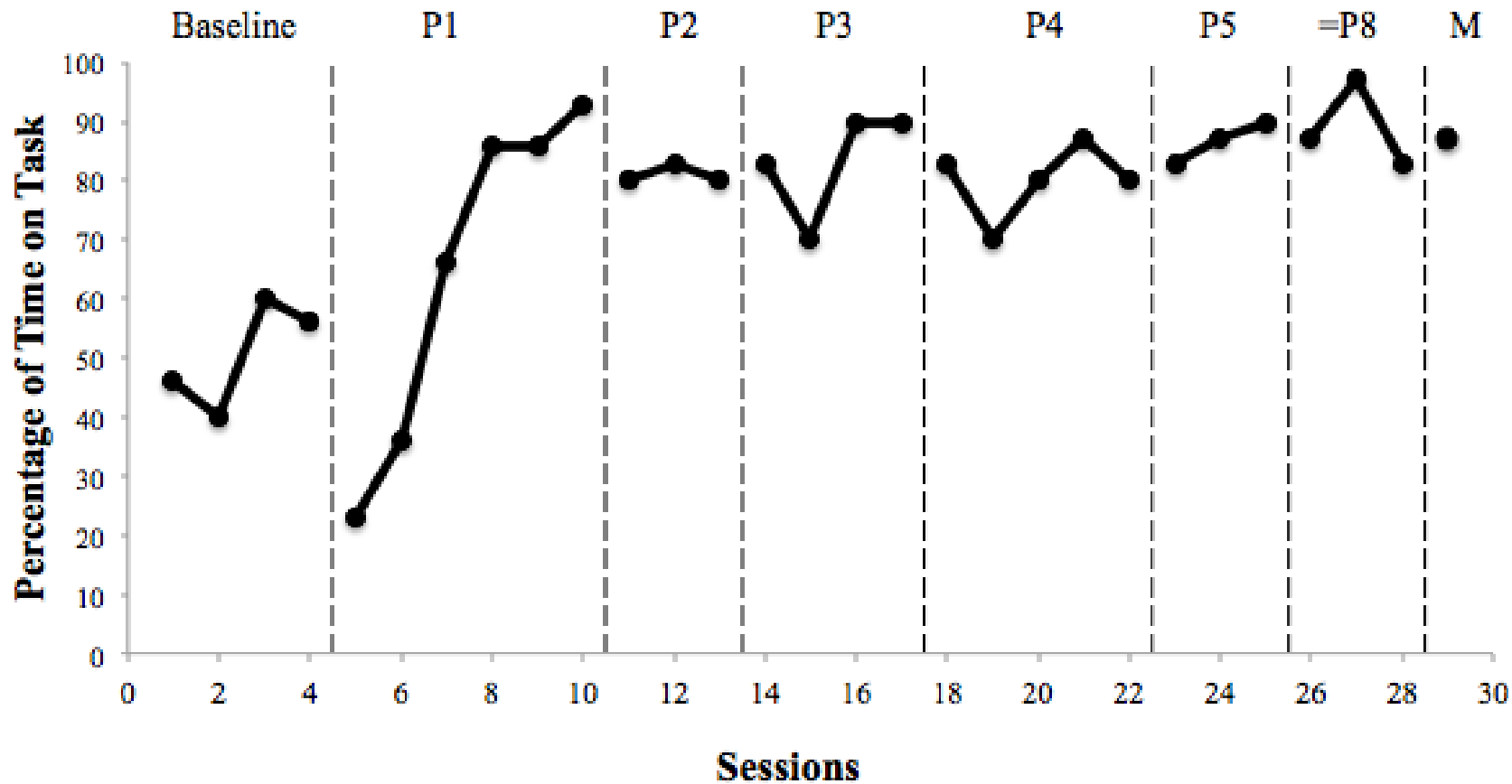
HOORAY!



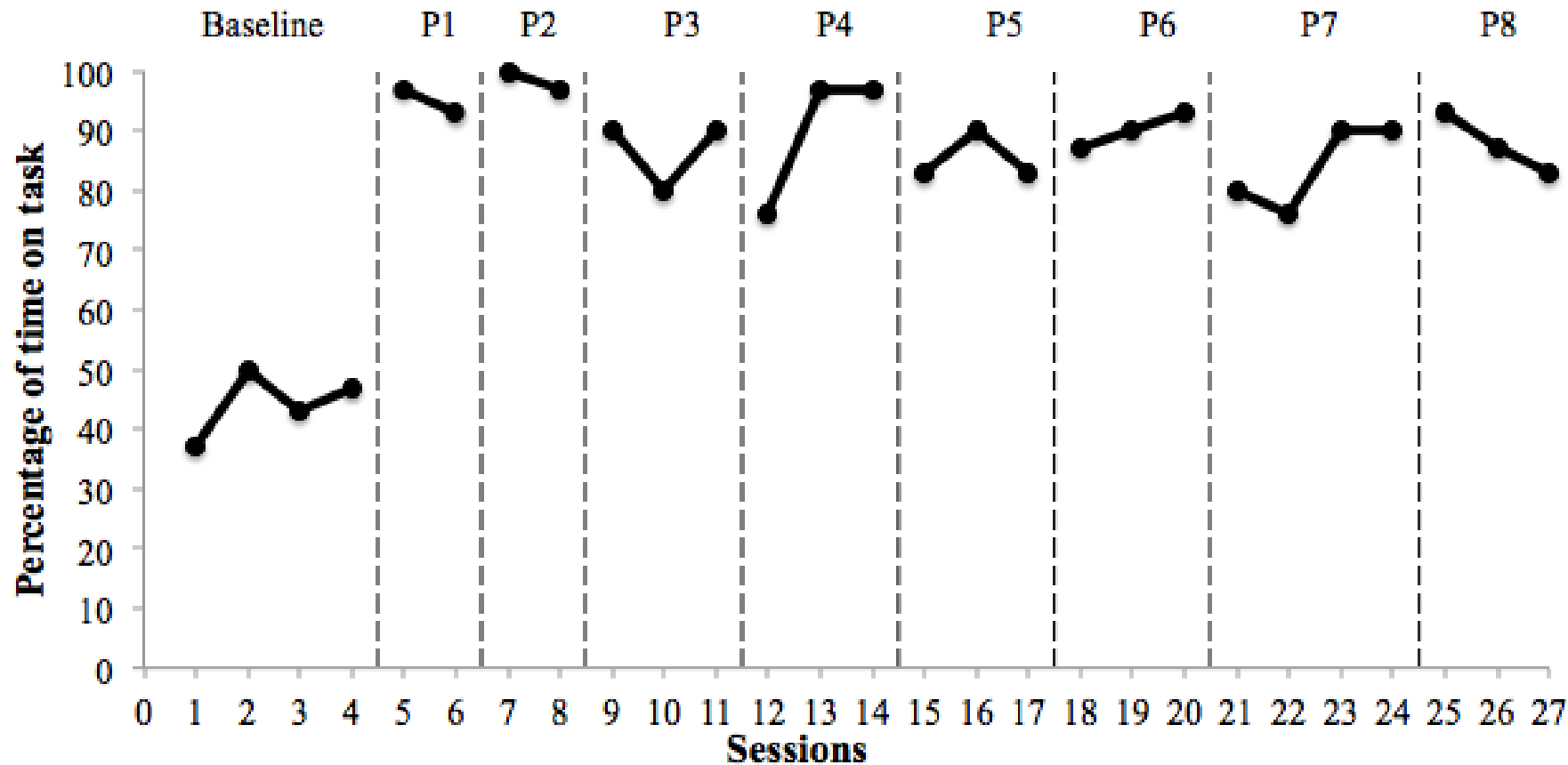
Pictures



## Proximity Procedure (Child A)



## Proximity Procedure (Child B)





# Results

## ❖ Participant 1:

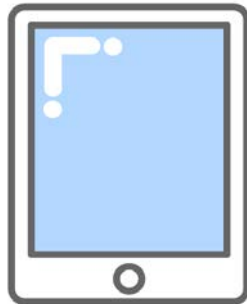
- Baseline: Average number of correct trials was 50%
- Phase 8: Average number of correct trials was 89%

## ❖ 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?**

