



Introduction

- AAC facilitates comprehension of language and interaction with communication partners (Shane, O'Brien, & Sorce, 2009)
Variety of visual symbols used ranging from objects to orthography (Shane, O'Brien, Sorce, 2009)
Visual symbols may be arranged in four ways: (Beukelman & Mirenda, 2005)
Fixed displays
Visual scene displays
Dynamic displays
Hybrid displays
Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) (Porter & Caferro, 2009)
Organizes vocabulary in a systematic manner based on communication function and topic
Aided language stimulation: strategy used to create immersion environment where communication partner uses PODD to model how book is used for communication, including navigation of system
Drager (2009) reviewed literature providing preliminary evidence that aided modeling intervention effective for children on the autism spectrum

Purpose

To investigate the effectiveness of using a PODD system for increasing communication behaviors with an individual who presents complex communication needs

Methods

- Single-subject multiple baseline design across two behaviors
Requesting
Sharing Information
Participant
7 year-old female who presents Down syndrome
Currently uses signs, gestures, and few vocalizations
Procedure
Participant utilizes signs, vocalizations, and/or PODD to request items or share information
Point system used to track accuracy across tasks beginning with pointing to one symbol for requesting

Results

Figure 1. Percentage of Correct Responses for Requesting for the Baseline and Intervention Phases

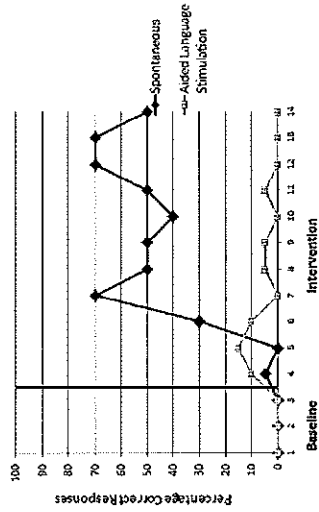
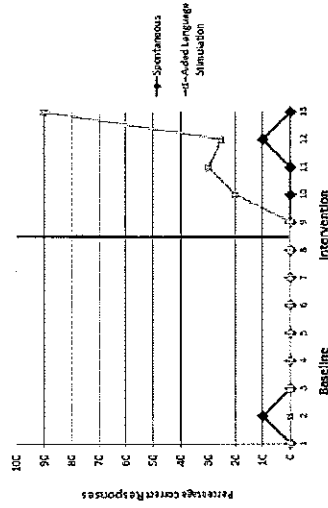


Figure 2. Percentage of Correct Responses for Sharing Information for the Baseline and Intervention Phases



Discussion

- This study supports the results by Bruno and Trembath (2006), Dada and Alant (2009), and Drager, et al. (2006) who all used some form of aided language interventions.
Increase in use of PODD communication book for requesting was seen following the use of aided language stimulation
Increase in use of PODD communication book for sharing information was seen following the use of aided language stimulation
Aided language stimulation is an effective strategy in teaching use of the PODD communication book

Future Research

- Use of PODD and its effects on communication behaviors across all ages and abilities
Further assessment of the use of the PODD for multi-symbol messages
Introduce navigation system of PODD before intervention phase

References

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