



Altering stimulus control to establish early language skills in children with autism.

Elizabeth Lefebvre, M.A., BCBA
Kelly J. Ferris, M.Ed., BCBA

The Organization for Research and Learning

ABAI- Phoenix, Arizona May 2009

Andrei



- 6 years 2 months old
- Diagnosis: Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Intervention:
 - Full day kindergarten (self-contained classroom)
 - One hour Occupational Therapy per week
 - 10-12 hours ABA therapy per week
- Started with O.R.L. in June 2007

Assessment Results



Mullen Scale of Early Learning- October 2008

Age: 5 years 7 months

- Gross Motor: > 33 months
- Visual Reception: 29 months
- Fine Motor: 47 months
- Receptive Language: 8 months
- Expressive Language: 10 months

Assessment Results



Psychoeducational Profile-3- October 2008

Age: 5 years 7 months

- Cognitive Verbal/Preverbal 31 months
- Expressive Language <4 months
- Receptive Language 47 months
- Fine Motor 39 months
- Gross Motor 38 months
- Visual Motor Imitation 34 months
- Communication 16 months
- Motor 37 months

Program



- Functional Communication
 - Picture Symbols
 - Augmentative Communication Training
- Receptive Language
 - Matching
 - Identification of pictures
- Play Skills
- Vocal Imitation
- Safety Skills

Task: Non-Identical Picture Matching

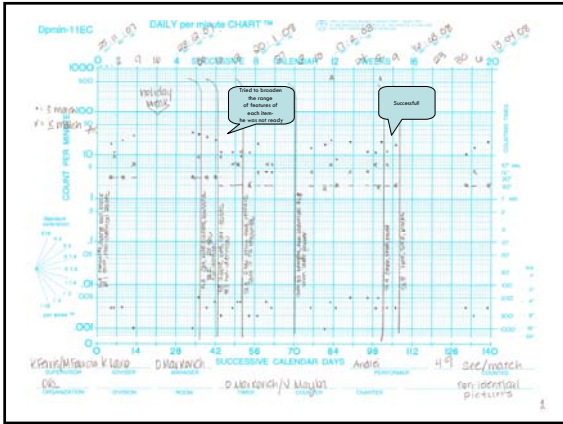


Critical Features

- Range of critical features of items (narrow to broad)
 - Salient quality of item
- Range of shared features across items (few to many)
- Field size
- Timing interval
- Schedule of reinforcement

Variable Features

- placement of pictures
- Rotation of pictures



Examples: Slice 1

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

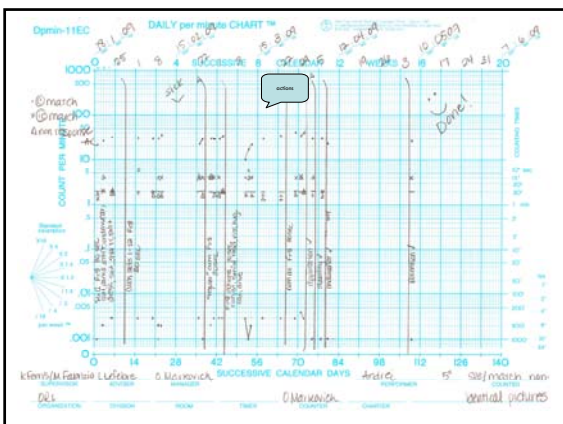
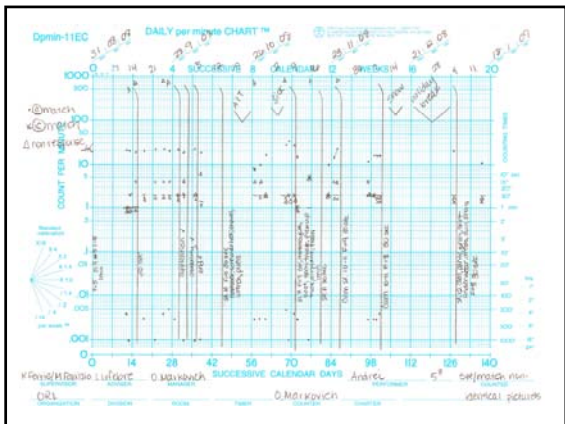
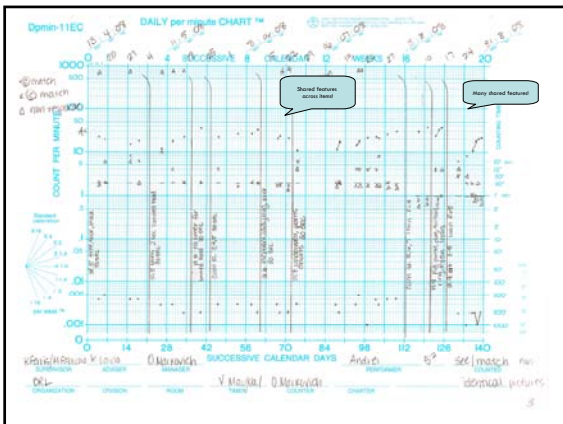
QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.



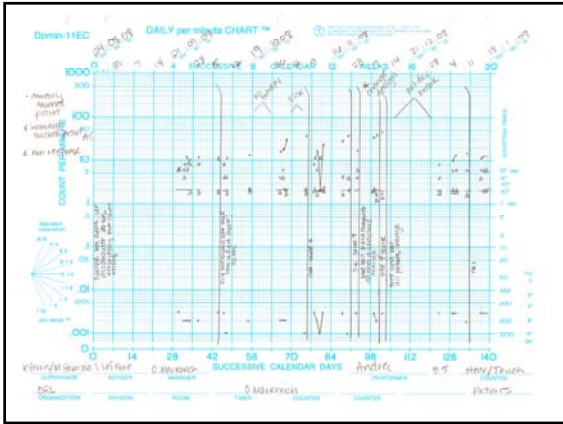
Task: Picture Identification

Critical Features

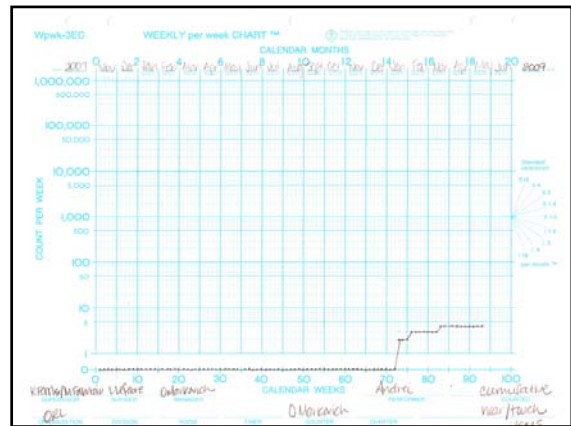
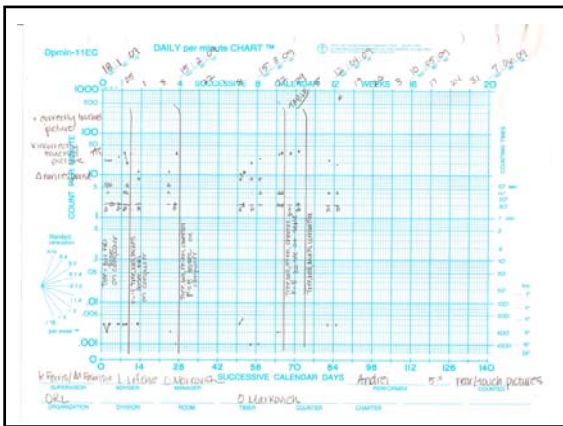
- Range of critical features of items (narrow to broad)
 - Salient quality of item
- Range of shared features across items (few to many)
- Field size
- Timing interval
- Schedule of reinforcement

Variable Features

- placement of pictures
- Rotation of pictures



Examples



Future Research Questions

- When will we be able to increase the range of critical features of each item?
- When will we be able to increase the range of shared features of all items within each slice?
- Can we use this sequence or a similar sequence to establish other early language skills?

liz.lefebvre@gmail.com

www.o4rl.com