Caregiver Implementation of Reading to Engage Children with Autism in Language and Learning (RECALL)

Background
- This study attempted to extend the findings of a previous study demonstrating the effectiveness of RECALL (a shared reading intervention) on the emergent literacy and language skills of young children with ASD.
- Currently, there are no studies investigating the impact of caregiver implemented shared reading on young children with ASD.

Research Questions
- What is the impact of caregiver-implemented RECALL on the correct responding of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?
- To what extent do caregivers implement RECALL with fidelity?

RECALL
- Dialogic reading (an evidence-based shared reading intervention) is the foundation of RECALL
- In addition to the components of interactive shared reading, RECALL adds
  - Prompts to establish joint attention
  - Visual supports to aid receptive/expressive language
  - Systematic instruction through a prompting hierarchy

Results
- Jessica implemented RECALL as intended
  - 93% (75-100%) on a caregiver checklist
  - Self-report indicating greater consistency and comfort over time
- Jessica reported the intervention had a large impact on her and Jayden’s shared reading behavior
- In baseline, Jayden’s percentage of unprompted correct responses averaged of 21%
- During intervention, Jayden’s average percentage of unprompted correct responses rose from 30% at pre-test (19-41%) to 54% (44-73%) at post-test
- Jayden maintained his gains in the follow-up phase
- The percentage of overlap (NAP = 1.0) suggested no overlap between pre- and post-test scores

Adaptations
- Unable to obtain accurate descriptive testing results for 3 children
- At pre-test, children were unable to use visual supports to respond to caregiver questions
- Books and instructional procedures were further adapted to teach learners picture symbol correspondence
- 1 of 3 caregivers implemented the intervention as intended for 6 weeks
- Focal child began verbalizing and using symbols to respond to caregiver questions

Future Research
- Conducting summer single case research design studies with more participants to continue to hone intervention
- Conducting single case research design study in preschool settings
- Plans to submit NIH grant

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