

ABSTRACT

A COMPARISON OF DISCRETE TRIAL TRAINING AND THE NATURAL LANGUAGE PARADIGM IN NONVERBAL AUTISTIC CHILDREN

Discrete trial training and natural language paradigm are two opposing treatment methods that have been proven effective in improving speech production within the autistic population. These two methods will be used in an alternating-treatment design to determine which treatment is most effective in language acquisition and generalization in children with autism with limited expressive language skills. Two participants with limited expressive language abilities were selected for the study. Each participant received treatment using discrete trial training and the natural language paradigm. Progress was judged on the quantity of language acquired in response to the two treatment methods.

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