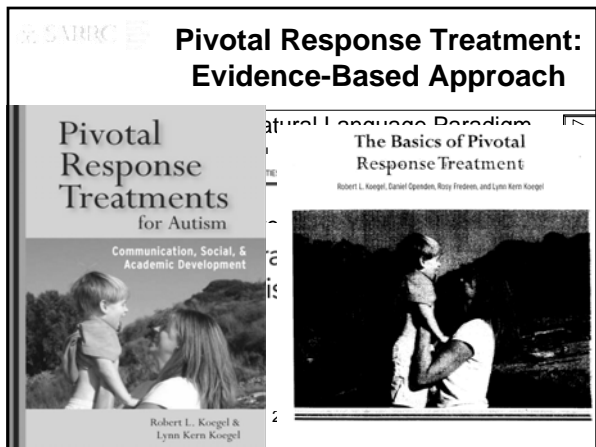


Pivotal Response Treatment for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Vice President & Clinical Services Director
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center







SAARC

Pivotal Response Treatment

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2001

- De
- Be
- De
- Im
- Pa

Comparisons of Discrete-Trial and Normalized Behavioral Language Intervention for Young Children with Autism

Dennis J. Delprato¹


This critical review examined a series of 10 controlled studies in which traditional operant behavioral procedures were compared with more recently developed normalized interventions for teaching language to young children with autism. Main characteristics of the older treatments include highly structured direct teaching sessions of discrete trials, teacher initiation, artificial reinforcers, and response shaping. Normalized interventions consist of loosely structured sessions of indirect teaching with everyday situations, child initiation, natural reinforcers, and liberal criteria for presentation of reinforcers. The main conclusion was that in all eight studies with language criteria, normalized language training was more effective than discrete-trial training. Furthermore, in both studies that assessed parental affect, normalized treatment yielded more positive affect than discrete-trial training.

KEY WORDS: autism; children; behavioral intervention; discrete-trial treatment; normalized treatment; language intervention.

SAARC

Focus on Core Symptoms of Autism


- Characteristics
 - Social difficulties
 - Language difficulties
 - Restricted interests
- Video example
 - Pre-intervention
 - Intervention
 - PRT



SAARC


Focus on Pivotal Areas for Intervention

- What are "Pivotal Areas?"
 - Versus individual target behaviors
 - Widespread, generalized improvements
 - Collateral improvements in untargeted areas



Pivotal Areas


- Motivation
- Responsivity to Multiple Cues
- Self-initiations
- Self-management





Pivotal Response Techniques


- Point 1: Child Attention
- Point 2: Maintenance Tasks*
- Point 3: Shared Control*
- Point 4: Contingent
- Point 5: Reinforce Attempts*
- Point 6: Direct and Natural Reinforcers*




 **Child Attention**


- The question, instruction, and/or opportunity to respond should be:
 - Clear
 - Appropriate to the task
 - Uninterrupted
 - Child must be attending


 **Child Attention
(video examples)**




 **Maintenance Tasks**


- Versus acquisition tasks
- Interspersing tasks
- Task variation


 **Maintenance Tasks
(video examples)**




 **Shared Control**


- Child directed/Child choice
- Follow child's lead
- Shared control
- Provide choices




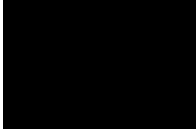
 **Shared Control
(video examples)**




 **Contingent**


- Reinforcement contingent upon child's behavior
 - Immediate
 - Dependent
 - Appropriate

 **Contingent
(video examples)**


 **Reinforce Attempts**

- Increase motivation to respond
- Reasonable attempt
 - Attention to the task
 - Related to the task
 - Reasonable effort
- Intent to respond

SARRC 


Reinforce Attempts (video examples)




SARRC 


Direct and Natural Reinforcers

- Natural consequence
- Directly related to the behavior
- Functionally related to the behavior
- Generalization to the natural environment



SARRC 

Peter




n 1

n 2


intervention

school


knock-knock joke

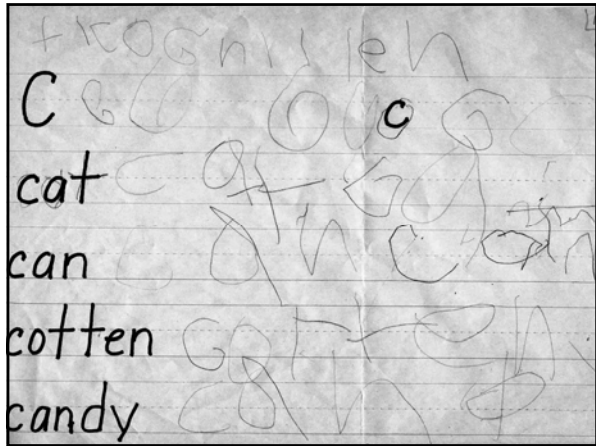


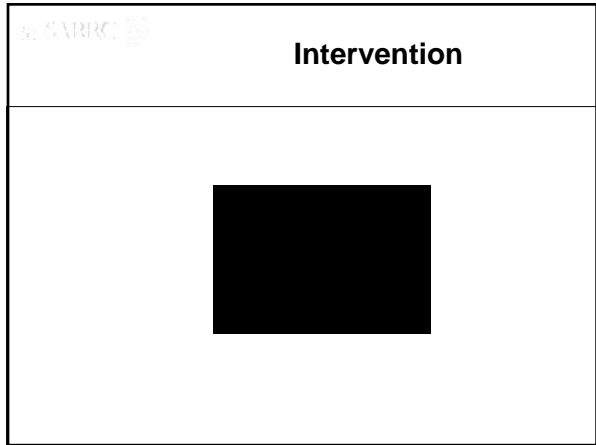


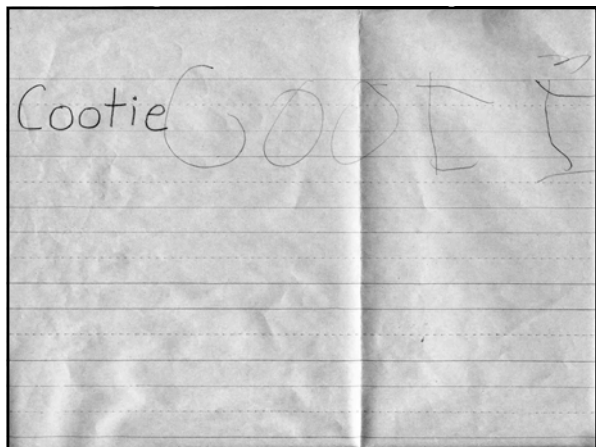
 **Case Study: Writing Legibility**

- Francisco (6-years-old)
- Disruptive behavior
- Difficulty completing in-class assignments
- Difficulty with writing
- Goal: Inclusive second grade classroom

 **Baseline**

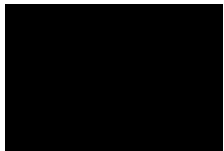






© SABRC

**Intervention
Implemented by Aide**



brown blue
brown blue

red yellow
red yellow

water green
water green

orange blue
orange blue



PIVOTAL RESPONSE TREATMENT POINTS

- 1) **CHILD ATTENTION**: The instruction should be clear, appropriate to the task, uninterrupted, and the child must be attending to the therapist or task.
- 2) **MAINTENANCE TASKS**: Maintenance tasks need to be interspersed frequently.
- 3) **SHARED CONTROL**: The child needs to be given a significant role in choosing the stimulus item(s).
- 4) **RESPONSIVITY TO MULTIPLE CUES**: Multiple cues need to be presented in appropriate for the child's development level.
- 5) **CONTINGENT**: Rewards need to be immediate, contingent, uninterrupted, and effective.
- 6) **REINFORCE ATTEMPTS**: Rewards need to be contingent on response attempts.
- 7) **DIRECT RESPONSE-REINFORCER RELATIONSHIP**: Direct reinforcers need to be used the majority of the time

PIVOTAL RESPONSE TREATMENT CHECKLIST

- DO I HAVE MY CHILD'S
ATTENTION?**

- AM I USING CLEAR, SHORT, DIRECT
INSTRUCTIONS?**

- AM I FOLLOWING MY CHILD'S
LEAD OR CHOICE OF ACTIVITY?**

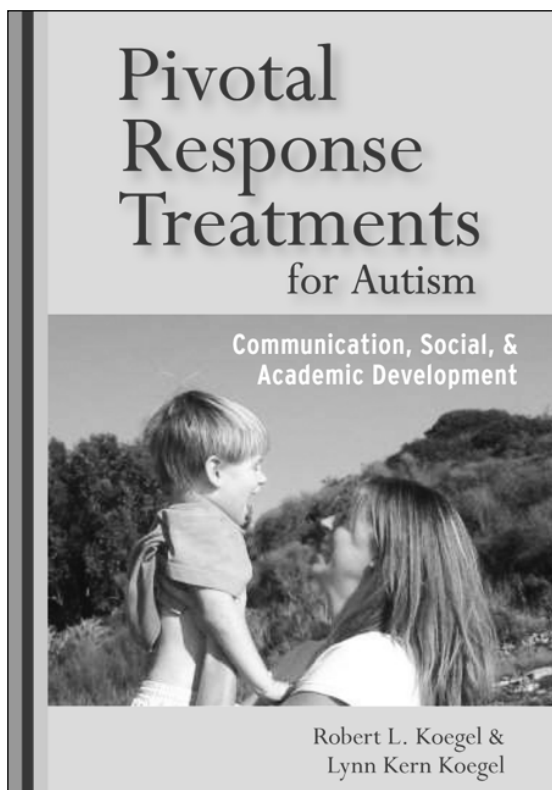
- AM I GIVING A MIXTURE OF
ALREADY LEARNED AND STILL TO
BE LEARNED TASKS?**

- AM I REINFORCING/REWARDING
GOOD TRYING?**

- AM I REINFORCING/REWARDING
WITH A BUILT-IN REWARD – ONE
THAT MY CHILD IS ASKING FOR?**

- AM I REINFORCING/REWARDING
RIGHT AWAY?**

Innovative, evidence-based
behavioral interventions



“A breath of fresh air . . . will help to ensure that best practices become common practices.”

—Michael Alessandri, Ph.D.
University of Miami

“[Robert Koegel] has shown that . . . children with autism can make remarkable progress if they are ‘turned on’ through an activity that they find intrinsically rewarding.”

—Parents Magazine on the PRT Approach

“A true godsend! Learning the PRT approach gave us the tools to work with our son throughout our day, so in effect he was receiving treatment during his every waking hour. He has gone from being completely non-verbal and difficult, to gregarious and well behaved!”

—Lauri Bell, parent, on the PRT Approach

Pivotal Response Treatments *for Autism*

Order Now
&
Save 10%!

Communication, Social, and Academic Development

By Robert L. Koegel, Ph.D., & Lynn Kern Koegel, Ph.D.
with invited contributors

Recognized as one of the top state-of-the-art treatments for autism in the United States,* the innovative Pivotal Response Treatment uses natural learning opportunities to target and modify key behaviors in children with autism, leading to widespread positive effects on communication, behavior, and social skills. The product of 20 years of research from Robert and Lynn Koegel—co-founders of the renowned Autism Research Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara—this proven approach is now clearly presented in one accessible book. Keeping parents involved in every aspect of behavioral intervention, therapists and educators of children from preschool to elementary school will use the research-supported PRT strategies to

- advance children's communication and language skills, even in extremely challenging cases
- foster social interactions and friendships with typically developing peers
- reduce disruptive behaviors by combining functional assessment with self-management strategies
- aid early identification and intervention
- reduce ritualistic behaviors and broaden children's interests
- improve children's performance in school activities and on homework assignments

Because PRT works with each child's natural motivations and stresses functional communication over rote learning, this comprehensive model helps children develop skills they can really use. With this timely resource, educators and therapists will support children with autism as they enjoy more positive interactions, more effective communication, and higher academic achievement in natural, inclusive settings.

*National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, 2001

BROOKES®

Price: ~~US\$39.95~~ \$35.96 • Stock #: AF263-8191

November 2005 • paperback • approx. 320 pp. • ISBN 1-55766-819-1

Order Form

Pivotal Response Treatments for Autism / Stock #: AF263-8191 / Price US ~~\$39.95~~ \$35.96

- Check enclosed (payable to Brookes Publishing Co.)
 Purchase Order attached (bill my institution) *Add 2% to product total for P.O. handling fee
 Please charge my credit card: American Express MasterCard Visa

Customer number (4 or 6 digits) : _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature (required with credit card use): _____

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

Complete street address required.

residential commercial

City/State/ZIP: _____ Country: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Yes! I want to receive information about new titles and special offers. My e-mail address will not be shared with any other party.

Convenient ways to order:

CALL toll-free 1-800-638-3775 M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.; FAX 410-337-8539;
 MAIL order form to: Brookes Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624;
 ON-LINE www.brookespublishing.com

Money-back guarantee! Ordering with Brookes is risk-free. If you are not completely satisfied, you may return books and videotapes within 30 days for a full credit of the purchase price (unless otherwise indicated). Refunds will be issued for prepaid orders. Items must be returned in resalable condition. All prices in U.S.A. dollars. Policies and prices subject to change without notice. Prices may be higher outside the U.S.A. Special note to Canadian customers: To save customers money on shipping, Brookes ships twice a month into Canada. For faster service/minimum shipping time, please place your order by the 9th and 24th of each month.

Write in your specialty and check the field that best applies.

- Birth to Five
- K-12
- 4-year College/Graduate
- Community College/Vocational
- Clinical/Medical
- Community Services
- Association/Foundation

Shipping & Handling

For subtotal of	Add*	For CAN
\$0.00 - \$49.99	\$5.00	\$7.00
\$50.00 - \$69.99	10%	\$7.00
\$70.00 - \$399.99	10%	10%
\$400.00 and over	8%	8%

*calculate percentage on product total

Shipping rates are for UPS Ground Delivery within continental U.S.A. For other shipping options and rates, call 1-800-638-3775 (in the U.S.A. and CAN) and 410-337-9580 (worldwide).

Subtotal \$ _____

+ 5% sales tax, Maryland only \$ _____

+ 7% business tax (GST), CAN only \$ _____

+ P.O. customers: 2% of subtotal \$ _____

+ Shipping (see chart) \$ _____

= Total (in U.S.A. dollars) \$ _____

Your savings code is **AF263**

BROOKES
PUBLISHING CO.[®]
www.brookespublishing.com

Browse our entire catalog, read excerpts, and find special offers at

www.brookespublishing.com