Stimulus stimulus pairing procedures and behavioral cusps. The relation between generative behaviors and the construction of the relationship.

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INTRODUCTION

The topic of this study is an evaluation of the Stimulus Stimulus Pairing procedure as a promoter of behavioral cusps in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

PARTICIPANTS:
Eight children aged between 2 to 4 years and 11 months.

TARGET BEHAVIORS:
- MAND «He/She asks me for something»
- ECHOIC «He/She repeats what I tell him/her»
- LISTENER «He/She comes when I request it»

TOOLS:
Pairing data sheet checklist.

PROCEDURE:
During the pairing procedure the therapist records target behaviors presence with a + (whether behaviors occur in the 80% of the available opportunities) or a – (whether behaviors are below the threshold).

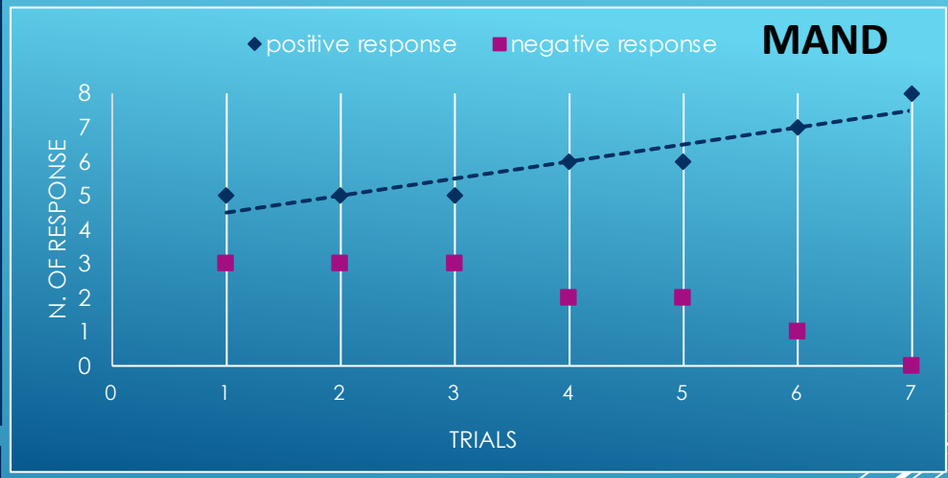
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

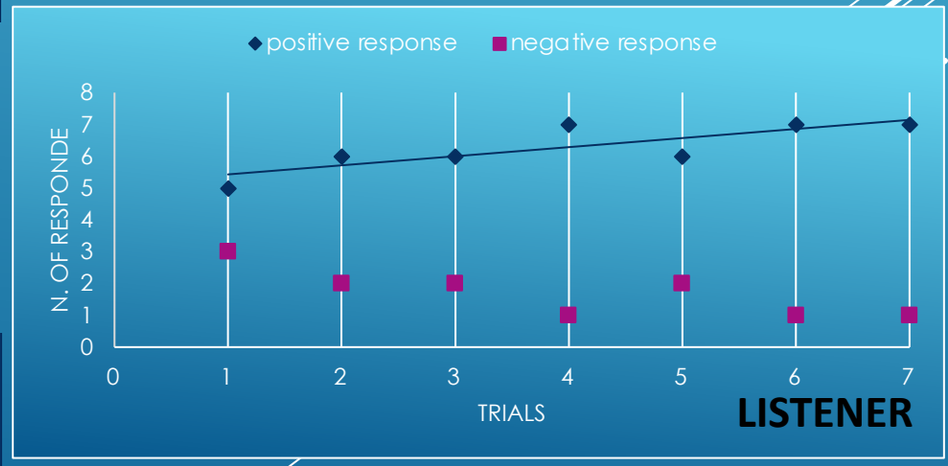
- 4 children acquired «mand» (50%);
- 7 children acquired «listener» (75%),
- No children acquired echoic.

From this study comes out that the pairing procedure reinforces all kinds of children behaviors; consequently **learning behavioral cusps is possible**. The pairing promotes emerging skills and derived learning. Learing is related to relationship. Children with ASD show difficulties in Social Skills that compromise acquisitions. For this reason, working on pairing should be the key.

DATA TABLE

TRIALS	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
MAND	5	3	5	3	5	3	6	2	6	2	7	1	8	0
ECHOIC	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4
LISTENER	5	3	6	2	6	2	7	1	6	2	7	1	7	1





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