

Pivotal Response Treatment

Robert and Lynn Koegel
Stanford University School of Medicine



Psychoanalytic Treatment

- Prior to ABA, professionals were primarily trained in psychoanalytic treatment

- Blamed parents – especially mothers
 - Refrigerator mothers
 - Mentally ill mothers

Resulted in severe emotionally and financially costly results for both parents and children



ABA evolution of DTT

- Through ABA new variables were identified.
- Choice, Interspersal, Natural Reinforcers, Reinforcing Attempts.
- Resulted in dramatic improvements in gains, efficiency, and generalization.



What is Pivotal Response Treatment?

Basic Assumptions

- Treatment in the Natural Environment
McGee, Krantz, McClannahan (1985); Koegel, O' Dell, & Koegel (1987); Miranda-Linne & Melin (1992)
- Family Involvement
Koegel, Bimbela, & Schreibman (1996); Koegel & Koegel (2006)
- Treatment of Pivotal Areas
Koegel & Koegel (2006)



Pivotal Areas

- Motivation
- Multiple Cues
- Initiations
- Self-Management
- Empathy (in progress)



Empirical Evidence: Simpson (2005)

TABLE 1
Evaluation of Interventions and Treatments for Learners With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Classification	Intervention and Treatment Categories				
	Interpersonal relationship	Skill-based	Cognitive	Physiological/ biological/ neurological	Other
Scientifically based practice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied behavior analysis (Hagopian, Crockett, van Stone, DeLeon, & Bowman, 2000) • Discrete trial teaching (Committee on Educational Interventions for Children with Autism, 2001) • Pivotal response training (Hupp & Reitman, 2000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Experiences: An Alternative Program for Preschoolers and Parents (Strain & Hoyson, 2000) 		



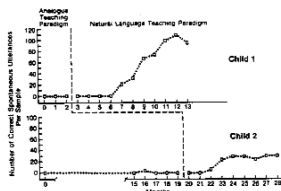
Motivation

- Core Motivational Variables of PRT
 - Experimental evidence and discovery of variables
 - Child choice (Koegel, Dyer, & Bell, 1987)
 - Direct (Natural) Reinforcement (Koegel & Williams, 1980; Williams, Koegel, & Egel, 1981)
 - Interspersal of Maintenance & Acquisition Trials (Dunlap, 1984)
 - Task Variation (Dunlap & Koegel, 1980)
 - Reinforcing Attempts (Koegel, O' Dell, & Dunlap, 1988)
 - Overall Motivational Package (Koegel, O' Dell, & Koegel, 1987; Koegel, Koegel, & Surratt, 1992; Koegel & Koegel, 2006)



Structured ABA vs. PRT

- Results: (Koegel, O' Dell, & Koegel, 1987)
 - Increase in immediate and deferred imitations
 - Increase in spontaneous utterances
 - Generalization of imitative and spontaneous utterances



Interactive Website

Koegelautism.com

Thank you!
