

Increasing Transitional Compliance in a Young Girl with Autism

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UO HEDCO AUTISM RESEARCH AND TRAINING

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Introduction

- Autism core symptoms include rigid repetitive behavior and deficits in social communication.
- Transitions from activities can be challenging for young children with ASD
- Past studies have found that providing children with autism visual supports in transitions has led to a decrease in latency (Dettmer et al, 2000).
- Video based preference assessment provided us an accurate activity hierarchy allowing the child to transition from low to high preference activities
- Identifying transitional strategies can help the progression of compliance in students with autism for transitioning during school or at home.

Research Question

Is there a functional relation between intervention type and decreased latency of clean up time for transitions for the following intervention strategies: (a) choices, (b) transitional warnings, (c) going from low to high preference activity, or (d) a combined intervention package?

Dependent Measure

Dependent Variable. Latency of clean up time

Latency: duration of time in seconds from the direction “clean up” until the child started to clean up. (specialconnection.ku.edu)

Methods

Participant. Anna is a four year-old multi-racial girl diagnosed with autism. She speaks in one to word utterances and has high receptive language skills.

Design. An alternating treatments design is in progress to assess the differences between the four interventions including (a) choices, (b) transitional warnings, (c) going from low to high preference activity, or (d) a combined intervention package.

Procedure. Established an activity hierarchy through a video based preference assessment. Randomly selected intervention order each session. Latency from prompt given to first move to clean up activity from subject was measured.

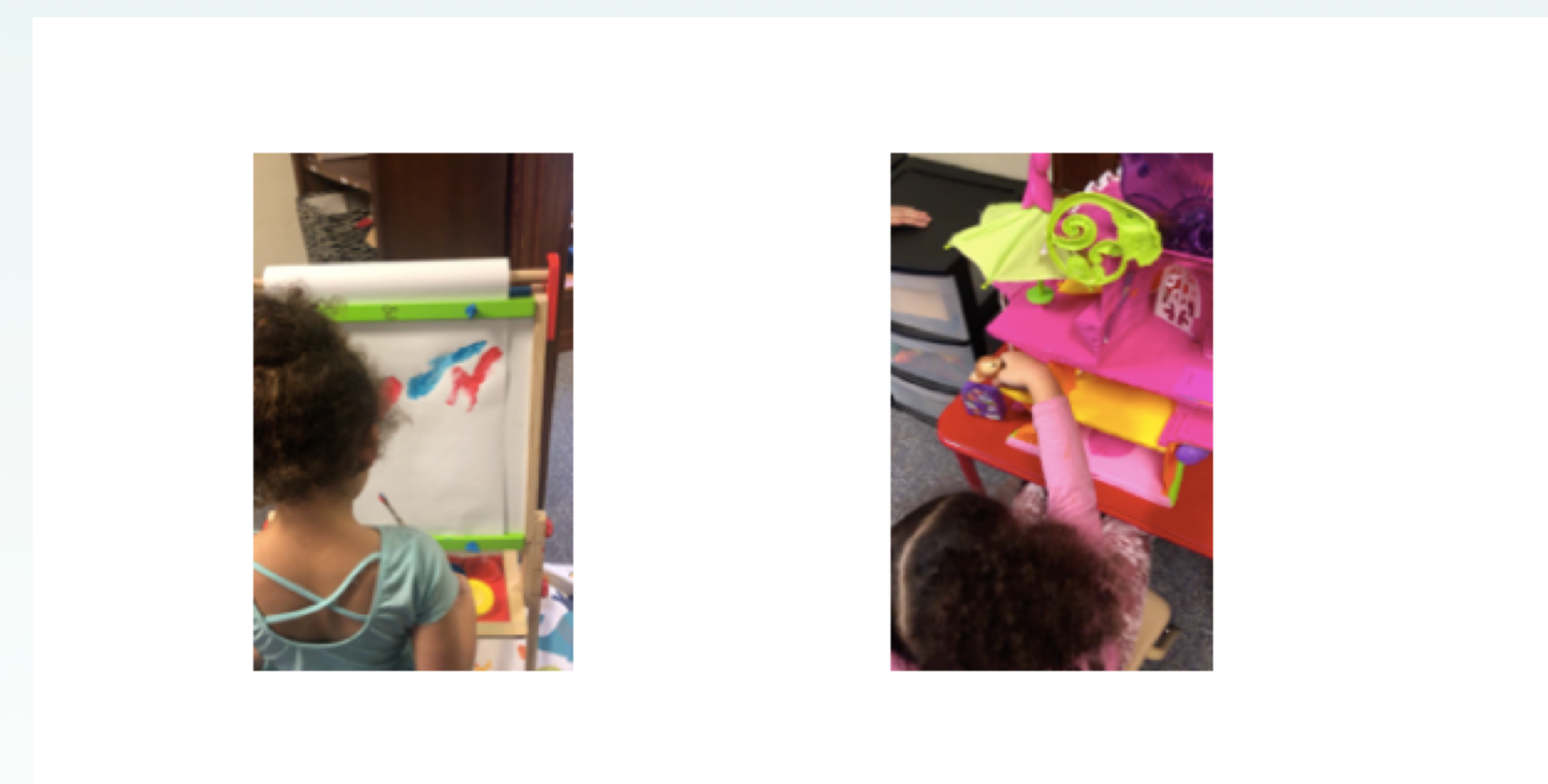


Figure 1. Example of video based preference assessment to identify preferred social activities.

Hierarchy from video based preference assessment:

1. **Playhouse**
2. **Paint/ Kitchen**
3. **Bee**
4. **Piano**

Results

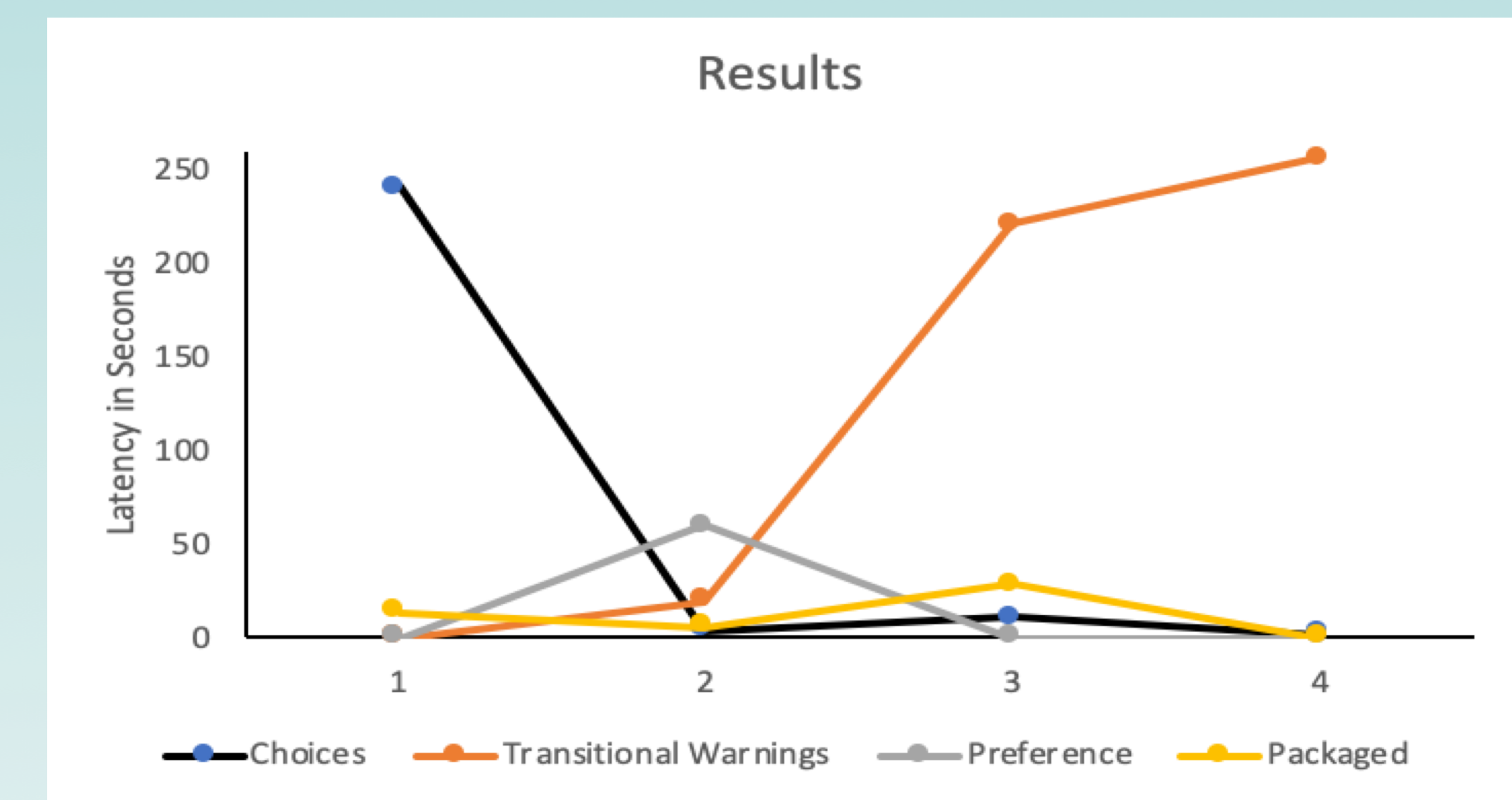


Figure 2. Latency in seconds for Anna to clean up during transitions

Discussion

- Transition probes are still being recorded in order to identify the strongest intervention strategies
- While not finalized, results indicate the packaged intervention: a combination of choice, transitional warnings and low to high preference will remain consistent with the lowest latency.
- This study can help us identify that a packaged transitional intervention routine may be the most promising approach for young children with autism.

Significance

- Identify the most efficient intervention strategy to implement for young children with ASD
- Increase compliance with transitions in school and at home settings