

Picture

Exchange

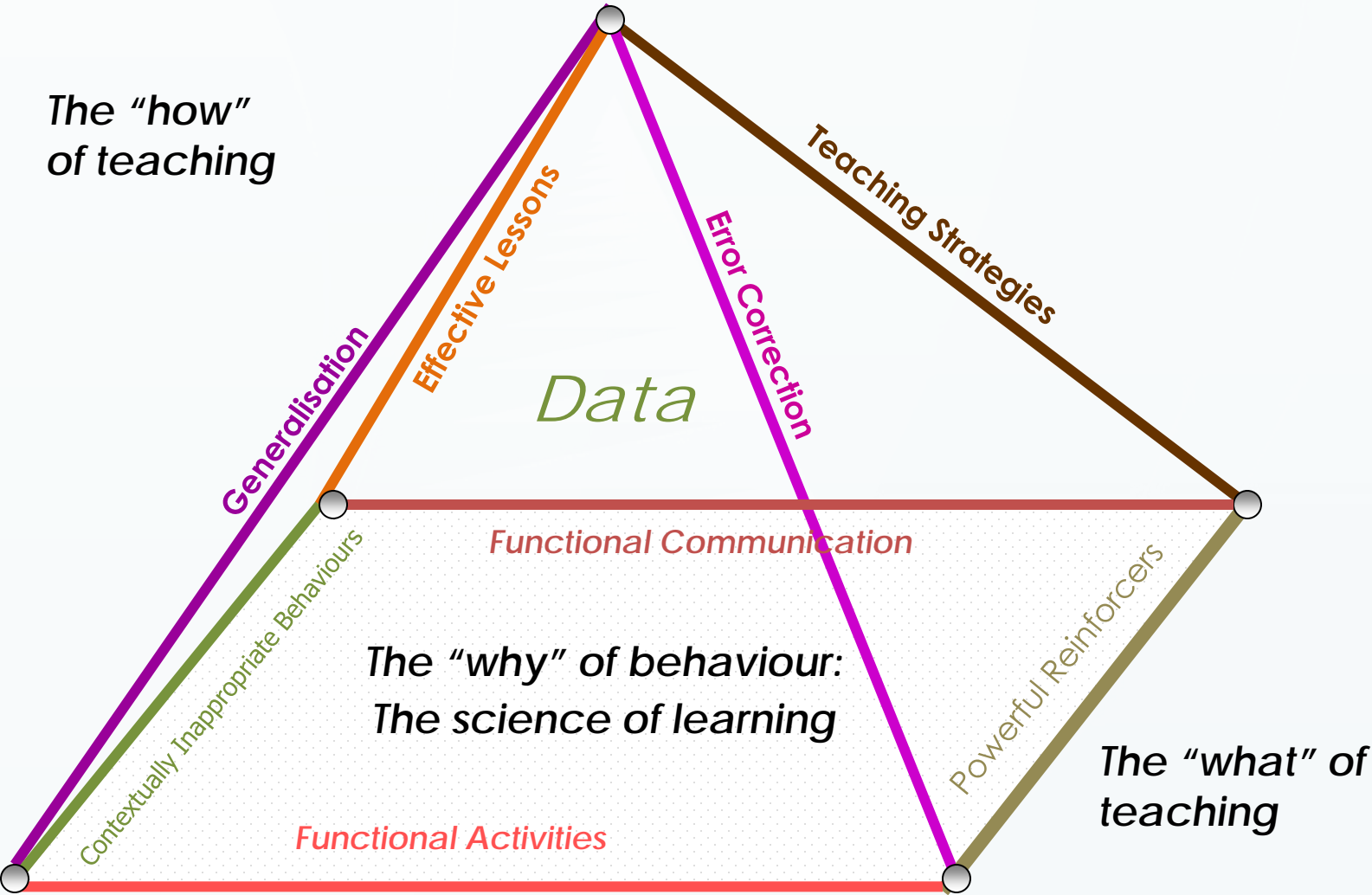
Communication

System

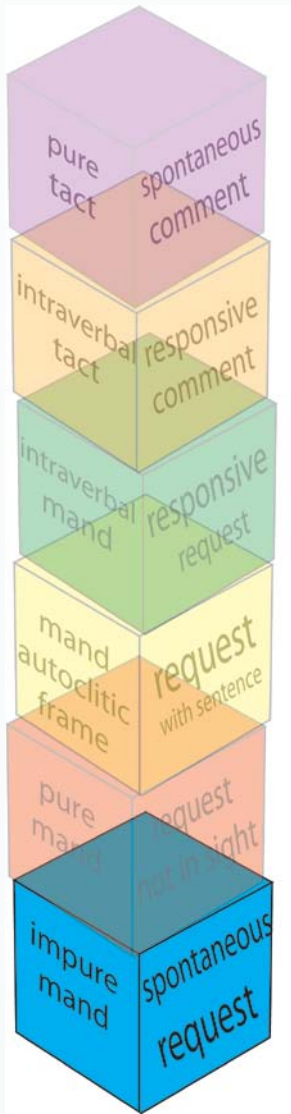
The Pyramid Approach to Education

Developed by Andy Bondy, Ph.D. and Lori Frost, M.S., CCC/SLP

The Pyramid Approach to Education



Phase I: Physical Exchange



- Teaches how to communicate
- The “rules” of communication
 - Approach communicative partner
 - Deliver message
- Picture discrimination is not a prerequisite

Communicative Partner

Physical Prompter

Entice

Wait for initiation/reach

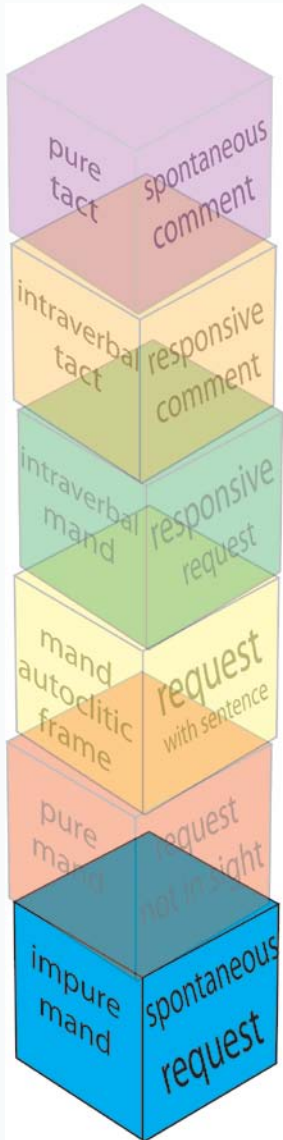
Physically prompt pick up, reach, release



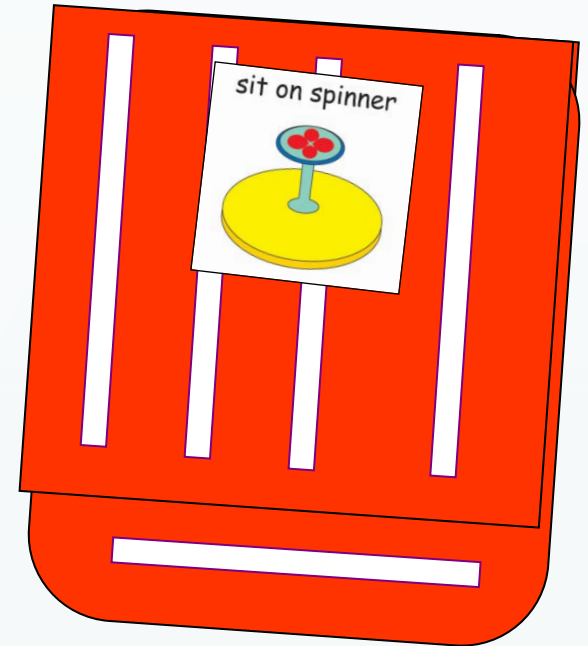
Reinforce within 1/2 sec (label item)

Phase II:

Distance and Persistence

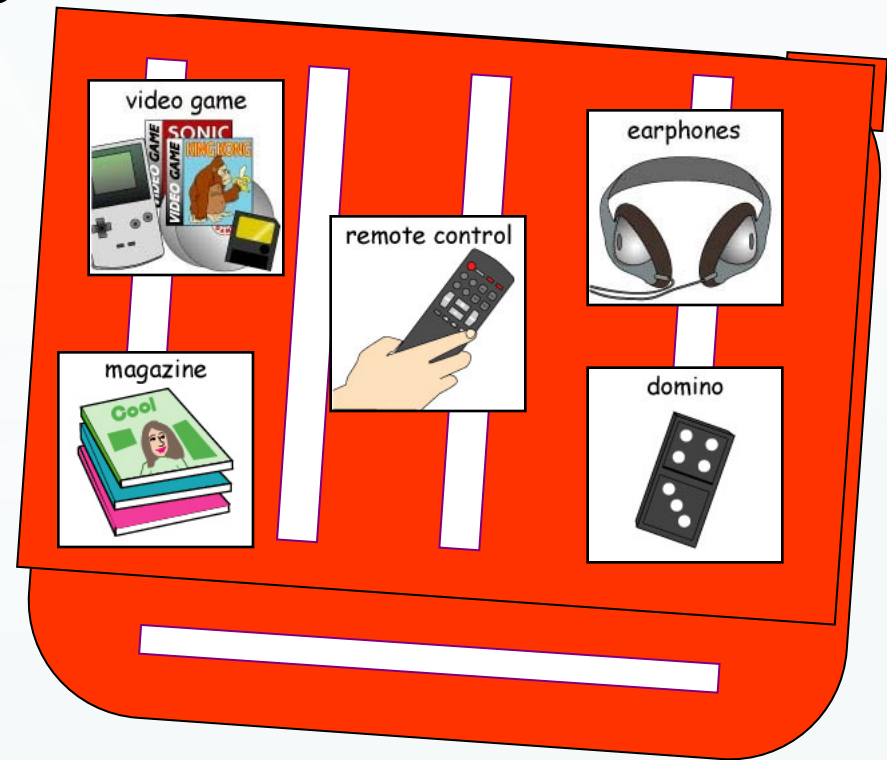
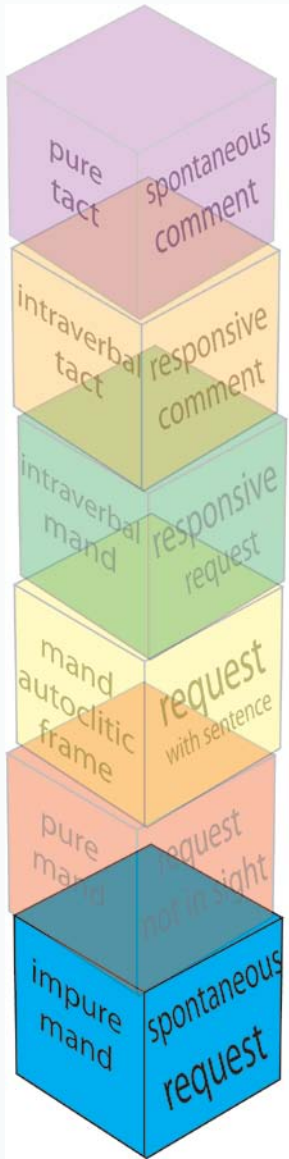


- Goal: Persist across obstacles
- Continuing to teach “how” to communicate
- No discrimination
- Each student must have his own book!



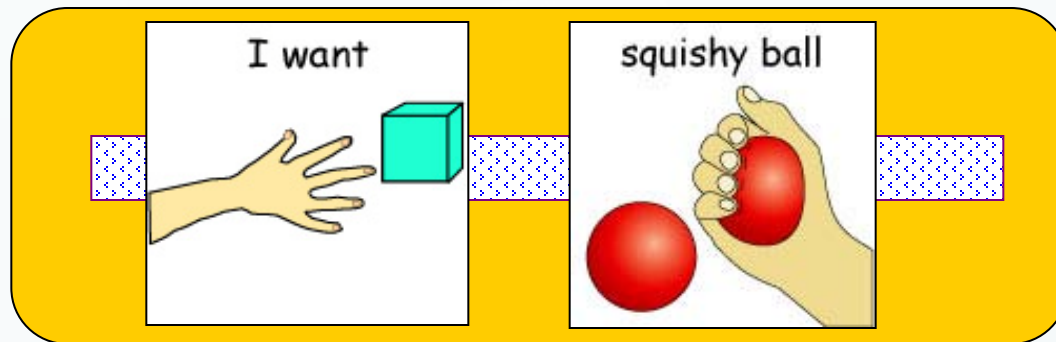
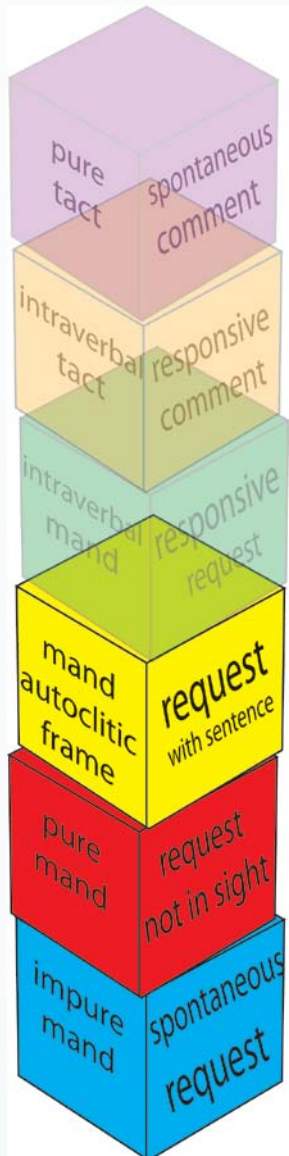
Phase III: Discrimination

- Long-term goal is for student to choose from among all pictures on or in book



Phase IV: Sentence Structure

- Teach student to construct and exchange a *Sentence Strip* while maintaining a requesting function



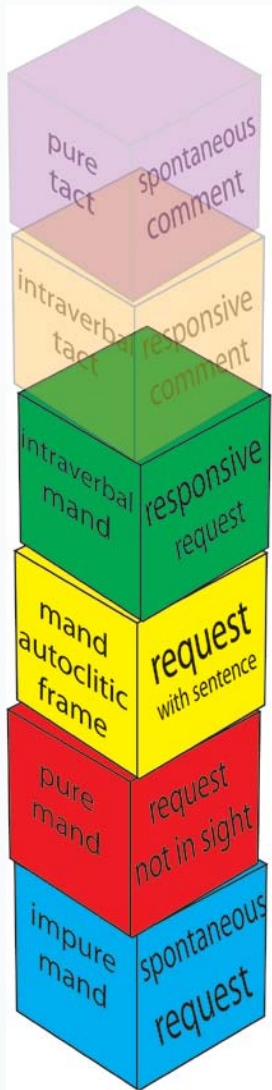
2009, by

Attributes

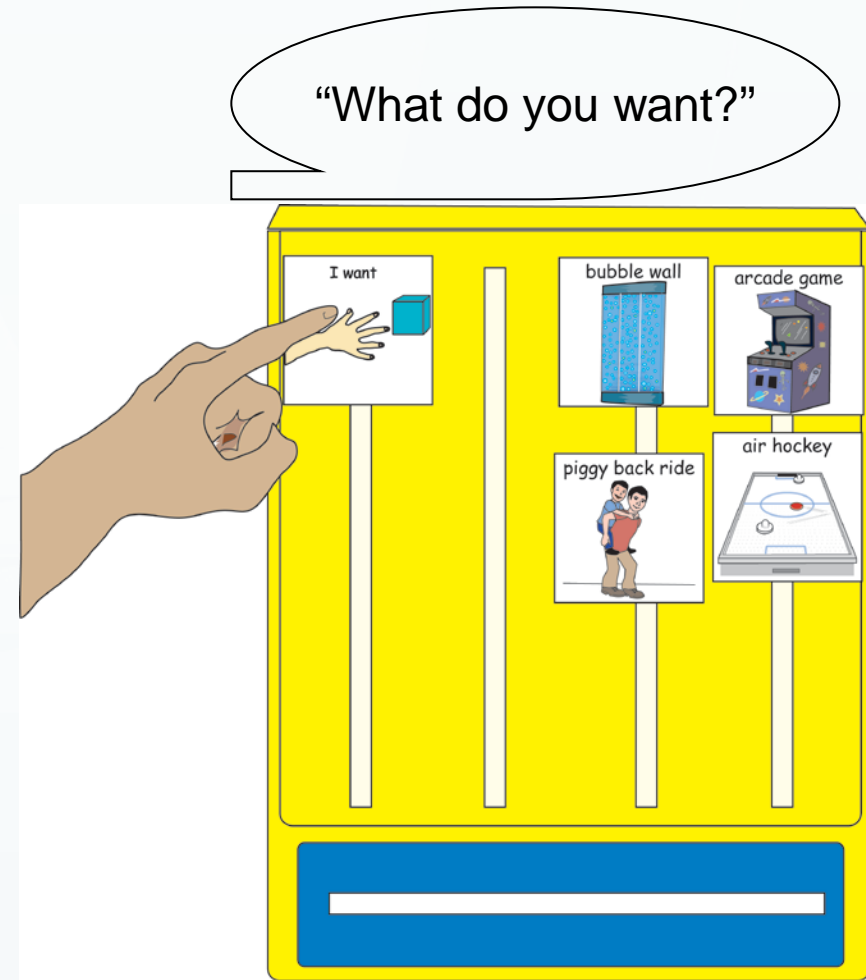
- Teaching the student to request *specific* reinforcers using descriptive vocabulary
- Prerequisite is identifying when a particular attribute is important



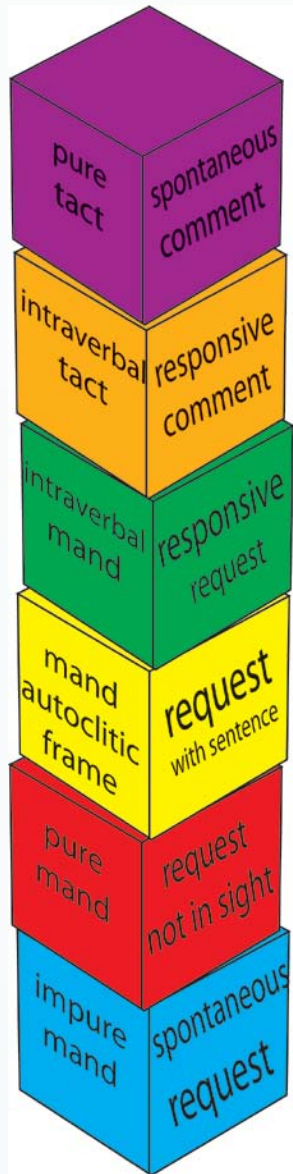
Phase V: Responsive Requesting



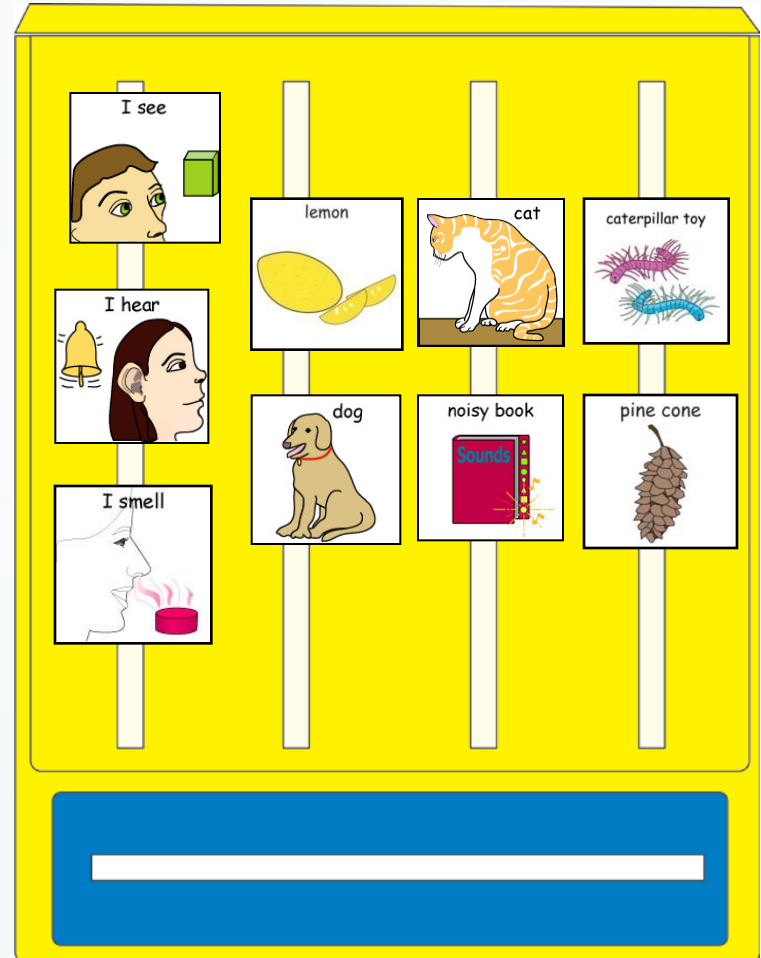
- Teaching responding to a question while maintaining requesting function



Phase VI: Commenting



Long term goal—
student
spontaneously
comments on
the world
around him!





Nine Critical Communication Skills

Expressive

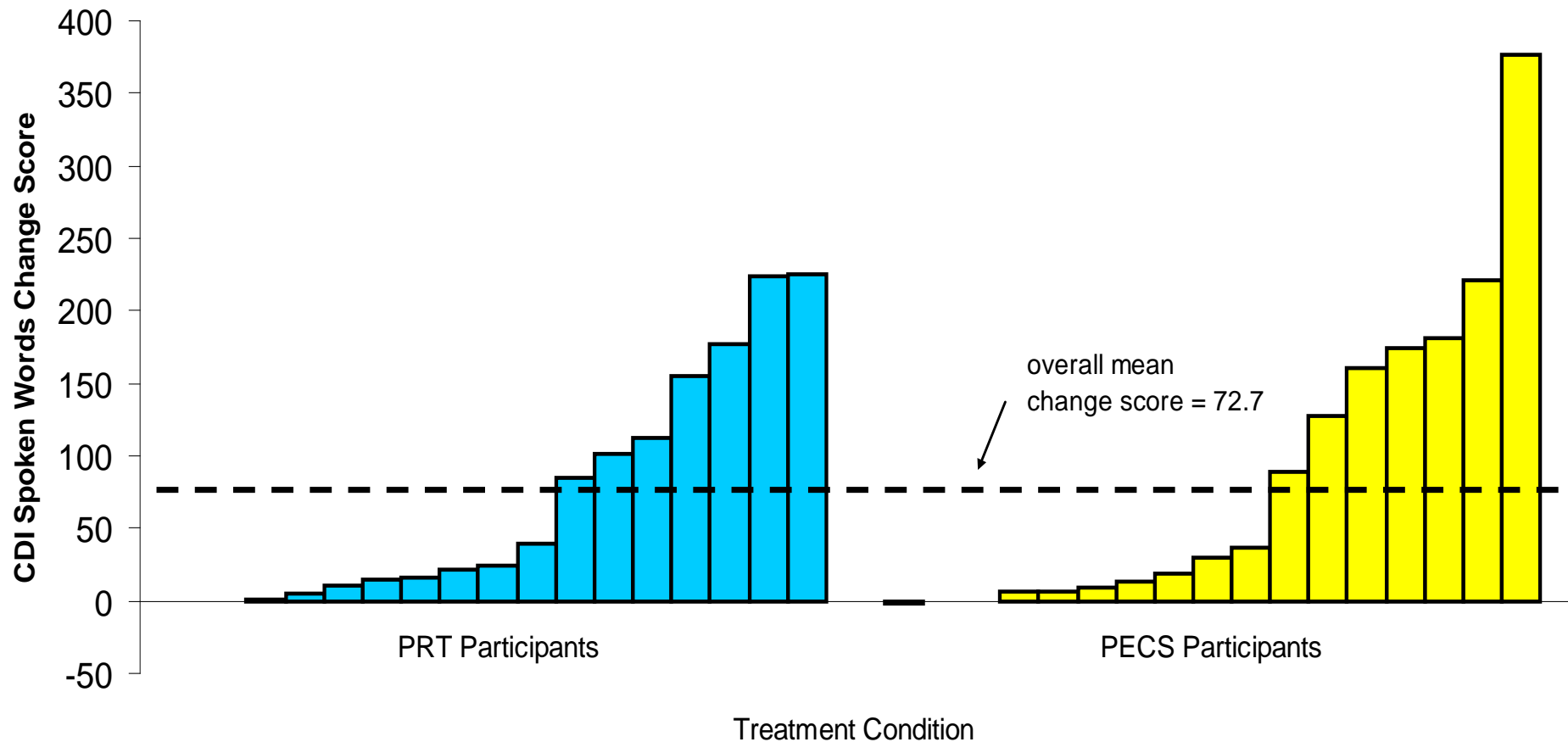
1. Request reinforcers
2. Request assistance
3. Request a break
4. Accept
5. Reject

Receptive

1. Respond to “**wait**” or “**no**”
2. Respond to directions
3. Follow a schedule
4. Transition

Comparison of PRT and PECS

Schreibman, Koegel, Stahmer & Koegel (in preparation)



PECS/Pyramid Workshops

- PECS Basic Training
- PECS Advanced Training
- The Pyramid Approach to Education
- Teaching Communication Skills for Independence
- Analysing & Fine-Tuning Communication
- Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviours
- Teacher's Guide to Organising and Managing the Classroom
- Transitioning Students from PECS
- PECS Myths & Facts