

Functional enhancement of communication skills through Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in adolescent with Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD)

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to see the effect of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) training to develop the functional communication skill in adolescent with Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD). There are two variable on this research, and that is Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) as a independent variable and the functional communication as the dependent variable. PECS is a way to communicate with the aid of a visual tools that consist of communication book and groups of cards that has pictures of items from which participant most preferable to the less preferable one. In this communication technique, participants is taught to do functional communication (request and commenting) by giving the card to the communication partner (Bondy and Frost, 2002). Functional communication is a proses that involves a behavior addressed to someone whom provides a direct social rewards which includes two basic ability, that is productive ability (spontaneously requesting and responsively commenting) along with the reseptive ability (in understanding and following other people's instructions). Functional communication consist of 9 critical ability, such as asking for desired items, asking for help, asking for a break, rejecting, affirming, responding to wait, responding to transitional cues, following functioning directions, and following a schedulle (Bondy and Frost, 2002). This research is using a single subject design (N=1). The sampling technique is the purposive sampling dan using the quantitative-qualitative methods. Researcher gave an intervention for some time and then measure the participant functional ability with Critical Communication Skills Checklist to see whether there is a change of behavior before and after the intervention. The result of this research shows that the using of PECS can increase the functional ability, especially on the aspect of request, and decrease behavior of tantrum.

Key word: Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD), functional communication, Critical Communication Skills Checklist.