**Title:** Generalization and Maintenance of a Telepractice Caregiver-Implemented Intervention: Four Years Later

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**Introduction:** Family-based intervention that includes teaching family members to apply strategies that support children’s language development is a fundamental component of an effective early communication program. Caregiver training and caregiver-implemented interventions are promising practices and researchers have demonstrated that caregivers can learn new strategies readily and implement them with fidelity (e.g., Dunlap et al., 2006; Meadan et al., 2014; Meadan et al., 2016; Roberts & Kaiser, 2011; Romski et al., 2010). However, there is limited information on how caregivers generalize and maintain the learned strategies.

**Method:** We present data from a caregiver-implemented study with a mother with a young child with autism and data from four years later, when the same mother requested to participate in the intervention again with her younger second child with autism. We employed multiple baseline across strategies within family design to examine functional relation between the telepractice intervention and the mother fidelity of implementation. Two single-case experimental research were conducted, one with the first child (study 1) and one with the second child (study 2). We specifically explored issues related to generalization of strategy use across children and maintenance of strategy use across time by analyzing both observations and interview data.

**Results:** We found functional relation between training and coaching the mother via telepractice and the mother fidelity of implementation during the first single case study. The mother was very satisfied with the outcomes, both for the child and their family (increase in quality of life). During the second single case research the mother continued to use the strategies with high fidelity and maintained the quality of the strategies use. However, she needed coaching to make changes to the strategy use based on her second child’s specific characteristics and needs (generalization across children). Social validity interviews data reveal that the mother was very satisfied with the goals, procedures, and outcomes of the study.

**Discussion:** Generalization and maintenance are important issues in both measurement and programming when working with families. We know that family members can learn new strategies and implement them with fidelity, but we have limited opportunities to study how they maintain and generalize strategies over time and contexts. Researchers and practitioners should continue to explore methods to both program for generalization and measure generalization and maintenance.

**References/Citations:**