

SPHSC 500: Assignment–Aural Rehabilitation Example

Treatment Schedule:

3-4 times a week - each session lasting approximately 50 minutes
 First 2-3 sessions for treatment; last session probe

Treatment: Clients will increase production by 50% (over baseline) in variety of repair strategies produced during communication breakdowns in a tracking task of unpracticed text with the treatment clinician in the clinic room. (see detailed description below)

Part 1: Assertiveness Training – components: discussion, demonstration, and role-play activities. Criterion for moving to Part 2 – demonstration of assertive behavior in at least ¾ role-play activities.

Part 2: Repair Strategy Training for teaching 12 strategies – components: discussion, demonstration, structured-dialogue exercises and role-play activities. Client was taught 2 strategies at a time until all 12 taught, as follows:

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence	Criteria
1. First pair of strategies introduced – defined (e.g., digits, and counting)	Discussion of communication breakdowns and repair strategies	+ Social - Feedback	Move to step 2 when client says she understands and can provide two examples for each strategy
2. Strategies from #1 demonstrated and practiced in structured-dialogue with at least 5 communication breakdowns per strategy	Appropriate production of strategies	+ Social - Feedback	Move to step 3 when client produces each strategy correctly 3 times in two structured dialogues
3. Strategies from #1 demonstrated and practiced in role-play activities with at least 5 communication breakdowns per strategy	Appropriate production of strategies	+ Social - Feedback	Appropriate usage of the 2 strategies 75% of the time during 2 role-play activities, add 2 more strategies starting with step 1. As add strategies, must produce at least one appropriate application of every strategy previously covered in the program.

Repair strategies adapted from Castle (1977) and others.

Probe Measures:

What to measure: Production of repair strategies (as defined on sheet)

How to measure: Two Contexts: Tracking and Natural Conversation

Tracking: Clinician reads text to the client, which is segmented into natural phrases or sentence boundaries and short enough for the client to remember. Texts were randomly selected from short stories and all were equivalent in length (~ 1 page in length – 3 minutes). To create communication breakdowns, the clinician's mouth was shielded from the client's view and twelve talker babble was presented to create a difficult listening situation. (Intensity level of the background noise was determined for each subject.) Reading was at a normal level. The client was instructed to repeat verbatim what the clinician read. The clinician did not move on until client is 100% accurate on the phrase or sentence. Feedback to the client was a head shake/nod for "yes correct" or "no incorrect". (no- incorrect thus created a communication breakdown and opportunity for production of a strategy). Clients were not instructed to use their strategies.

Tracking Data:

1. **Event recording - simple enumeration** of unique types of strategies used per session (i.e., maximum 12)
2. **Event recording – rate in percent of specific strategies.** Each strategy the client used was categorized as specific or non-specific (see sheet of strategies). Specific strategies used / specific + non-specific X 100 = percent specific strategy produced.
3. **Event recording – rate in percent usage of multiple, non-specific strategy use employed by the client during communication breakdowns where more than one strategy was applied.** This was calculated by counting the number of communication breakdowns where more than one strategy was used, and dividing this value by the number of times more than one non-specific strategy was used during those interchanges X 100. Example:
 - a. What. Huh. Please spell the last word
 - b. You are going where? Huh. What. Write the whole phrase please.
 - c. What. $2/5 \times 100 = 40\%$

Natural Conversation: Generalization Probe. Clients were engaged in conversation with two individuals, supervisor and another clinician. The general topics covered during these conversations included the weeks events and weekend plans. Topics always provided the subjects with an opportunity to use every type of strategy. At least six communication breakdowns had to occur in each conversation. This was assured by removing the clients hearing aids for routine cleaning, speakers dropping their speaking voice or looking away periodically, and speakers asking client's open ended questions.

Natural Conversation Data: (#1 and #2 same as Tracking)

1. **Event recording - simple enumeration** of unique types of strategies used per session (i.e., maximum 12)
2. **Event recording – rate in percent of specific strategies.**