



EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF A PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM ABOUT AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

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Background

- ❖ Communication partners play an essential role in setting up augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system in children with complex communication needs.
- ❖ Training and support for communication partners is now part of the implementation of an AAC system.
→ **Data on how to effectively support communication partners is lacking.**
Kent-Walsh et al., 2015 ; Maillart & Fage, 2020 ; Senner et al., 2019

Methods

❖ Participants

- 2 parents of a child with ASD



❖ Procedure

- Measures :

- Video clip analyses (10 min. child/parent interaction – personal observation grid)
- Parenting sense of competence scales (SCP-C Martínez Perez & Stiévenart, 2020 / EGSCP Meunier & Roskam, 2009)
- Semi-structured interviews
- 8 individual sessions – 60 minutes :
 - 1 pre-test session
 - 6 support sessions
 - 1 post-test session



- Use of a communication board – TD Snap
- 4 major learning functions (Biel et al., 2020) :

- (1) information sharing
- (2) modeling
- (3) guided practice
- (4) feedback



Pre-test

Session 1
General notions about AAC
- Myths of AAC

Session 2
Use of a CD
- Types of vocabulary
- Communication partners

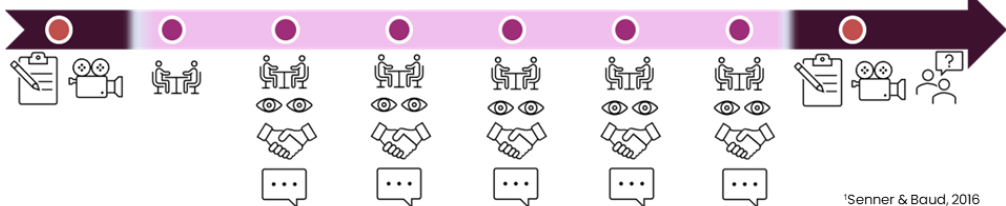
Session 3
Use of a CD
- Zone of proximal development
- Child's interest

Session 4
Use of TD Snap
- Strategies to support language development
- S'MORRES¹

Session 5
Use of TD Snap
- Importance of diversifying functions of communication

Session 6
Use of TD Snap
- Multimodality
- Summary and general questions

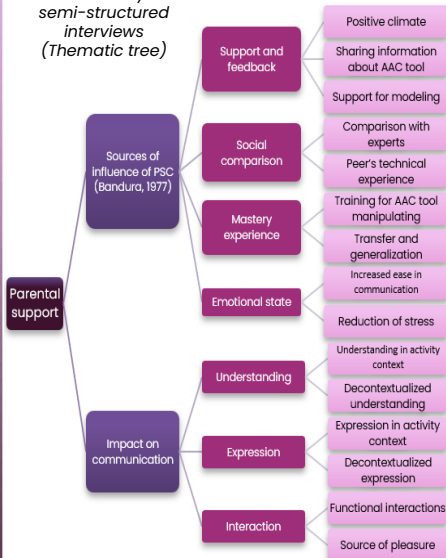
Post-test



¹Senner & Baud, 2016

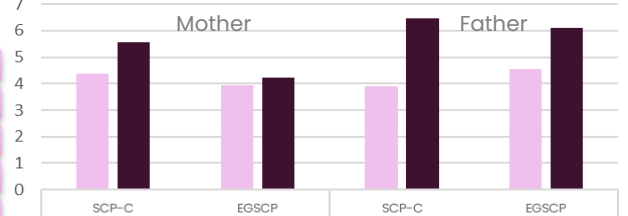
Results*

Thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews (Thematic tree)

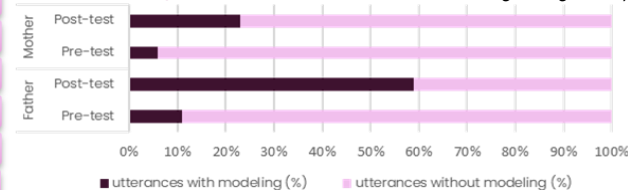


* Preliminary study
Single measurements in pre- and post-test
→ descriptive and visual analyses
→ Results must be considered with caution

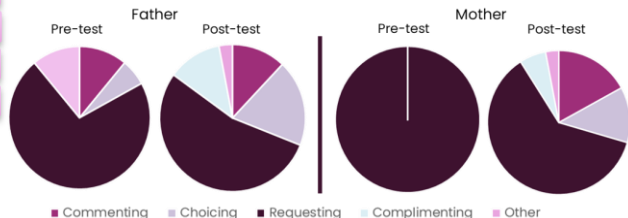
❖ Parenting sense of competence



❖ Modeling quality



Use of functions of communication



Discussion

→ Promising results

❖ About PSC

- Increased PSC in communication in both parents
- But results do not seem specific

❖ About modeling quality

- Parents use more frequently AAC tool
- Parents use more communication functions

❖ Thematic analysis

- Most mentioned themes: linked to the mastery experience (training in the manipulation of AAC tool, transfer and generalization)
- Impact on communication

Essential to support communication partners
→ Need of more studies