



Chatham County Safe Start Program Outcome Evaluation Using Single Subject Research

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Case Example

“An eight year old child had been exposed to domestic violence between his natural mother and natural father and, subsequently, between his natural mother and her boyfriend. The child’s ongoing CEV symptoms include waking in the night in a rage, aggressive behavior and destruction of property.”

Condition the Intervention Proposes to Change, Intervention Goal and Goal Indicator

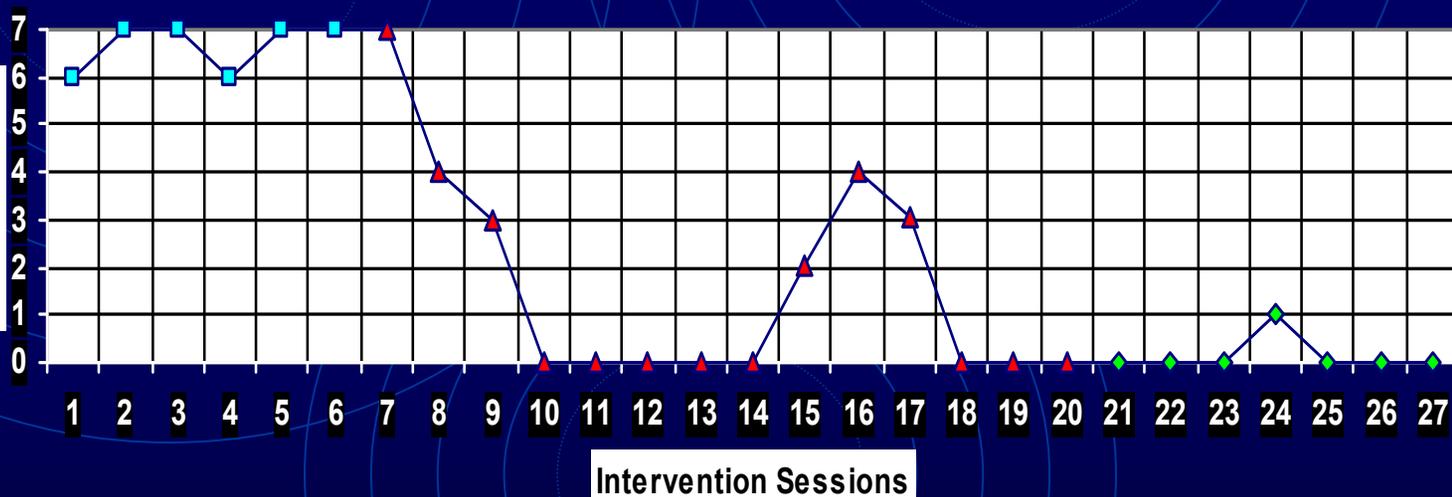
- Condition: “Waking in the night in a rage.”
- Goal: “To reduce the incidence of the child waking in the night in a rage.”
- Indicator: “The number of nights in a week that the child wakes in a rage.”

Measurement

“At the beginning of each day, the mother notes on a piece of paper whether or not the child woke during the night in a rage. At the end of the week the mother adds the number of “yes” responses and reports the total to the counselor at the time of the next intervention session.”

Graphic Analysis

Number of Nights
Each Week that the
Child Wakes in a
Rage



Statistical Analysis

- The condition was stable during the pre-intervention phase (i.e., trend line was statistically horizontal during the pre-intervention phase).
- The level of the condition was not stable (decreased) during the intervention phase (i.e., trend line was not statistically horizontal during the intervention phase).
- The condition was stable during the post-intervention phase (i.e., trend line was statistically horizontal).

Contextual Analysis

- Intervention phase shows expected condition “rebound.”
- Counselor reports no potentially confounding influences during the course of study (i.e., no coexisting interventions, changes in the family or family members, or environmental events, etc.).

Conclusion

Given that the intervention had only the one goal, the intervention can be termed “successful,” as can the case.

What is Single Subject Research?

- Each case is studied separately (unique research design, or “study” for each case).
- Time series analysis of the effect(s) of the intervention used in a case.
- Data is collected on the condition(s) the intervention is attempting to change.
- Multiple data points in the pre-intervention, intervention and post-intervention phases.
- Graphical, statistical and contextual analysis of the data to determine the “success” of the intervention.

Data Collection

- The condition is the knowledge, attitude, belief, affective state or behavior that the counselor and the client have agreed to try to change.
- The condition indicator is the way that the level of the condition will be measured (i.e., the unit of measure).
- Condition(s), intervention goal(s), goal indicator(s), data collection protocol and instrumentation are determined by the counselor and the client for each course of services.
- Data is collected by the client, counselor or other.

Data Analysis

- Graphical and statistical analysis of the upward, downward or horizontal trend of an indicator in the pre-intervention, intervention and post-intervention phases.
- Contextual analysis of the individual, familial, cultural and environmental situations and events that coexisted with the three phases of the intervention.

CC Safe Start Program Outcome Evaluation

- Basis is a discrete analysis of the single subject data collected on each intervention goal of each case of each CC Safe Start service program. Case outcome is either “successful” or “not successful.”
- Aggregate analysis of all of a particular program’s single subject data. Proportion of “successful” cases is either significant or not significant.
- Overall aggregate analysis of all of CC Safe Start programs’ single subject data. Proportion of “successful” cases is either significant or not significant.