

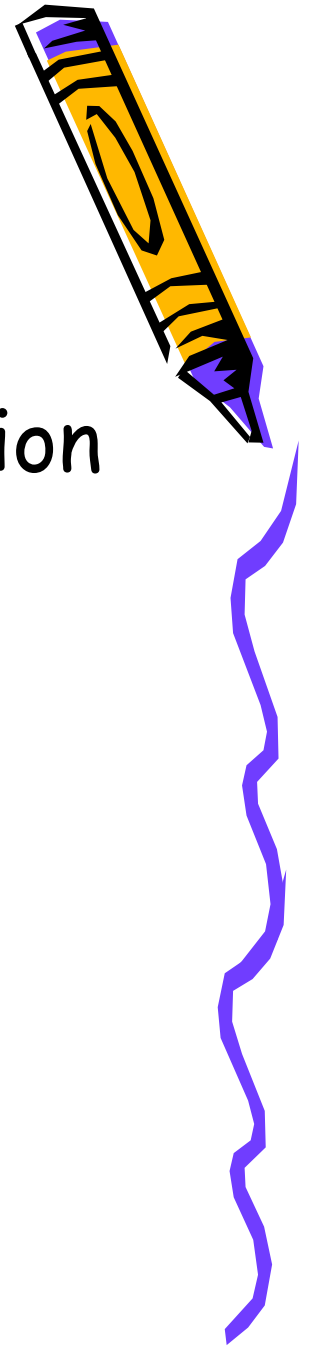


Functional Communication Camp and Intervention Strategies for Nonverbal Children

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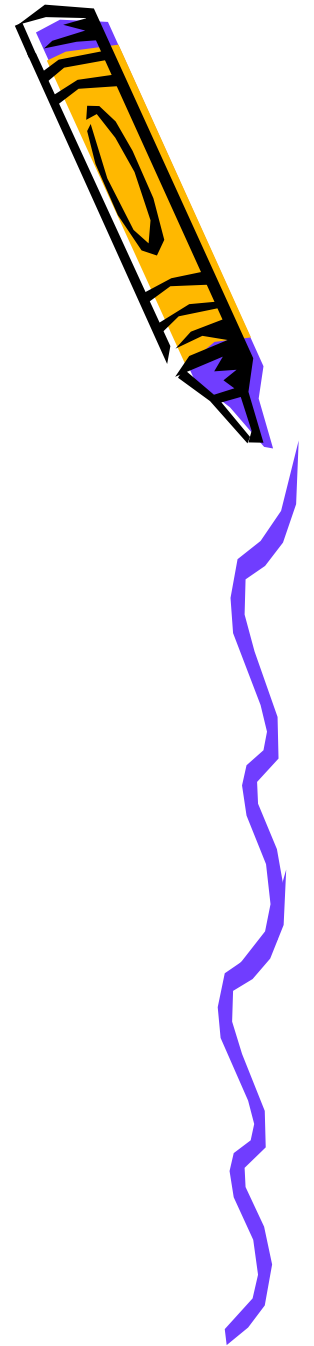
Outline

- Concept of Functional Communication Speech Camp
- Participant information
- Evaluation measure
- Daily activities
- Data collection



Outline Cont.

- Intervention strategies
- Progress of participants
- Parent Involvement and Feedback
- Home Programming
- Results of retrospective research
- Questions



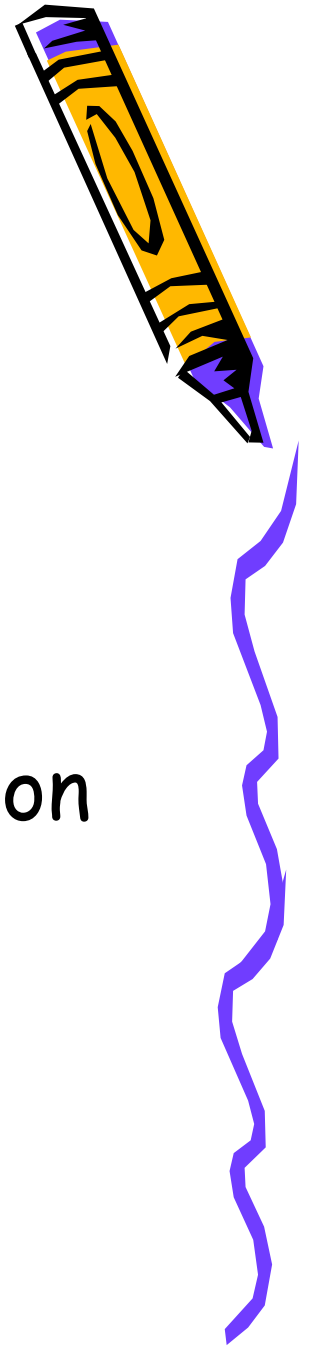
Concept of FCSC

- A summer program to build functional and social communication skills for children with nonverbal or limited verbal communication needs.
- This program will provide social and functional language learning opportunities for children who are currently non-verbal or have limited verbal communication skills



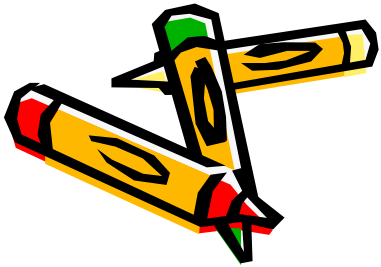
Concept of FCSC

- 12 sessions
- a functional communication assessment
- family education and training session
- take home materials to implement communication skills

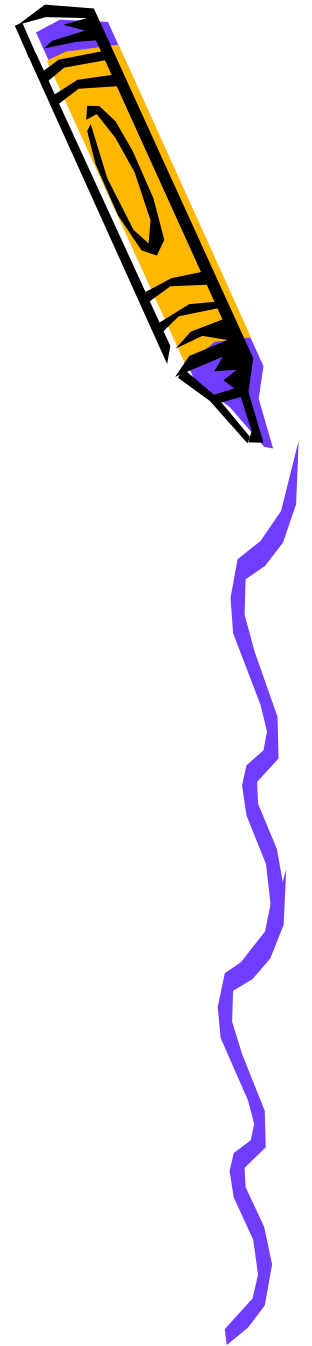


Participant Information

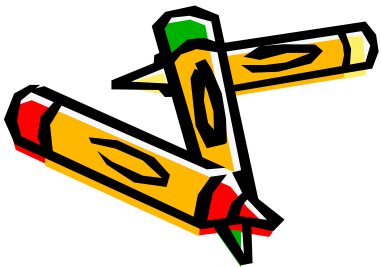
- children ranged in age from 3 years 5 months to 14 years and were divided into two groups of five
- Children were selected for the camp on a first-come, first-serve basis
- requirements were that the children were functionally nonverbal at the beginning of the camp



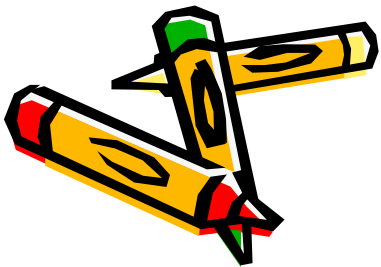
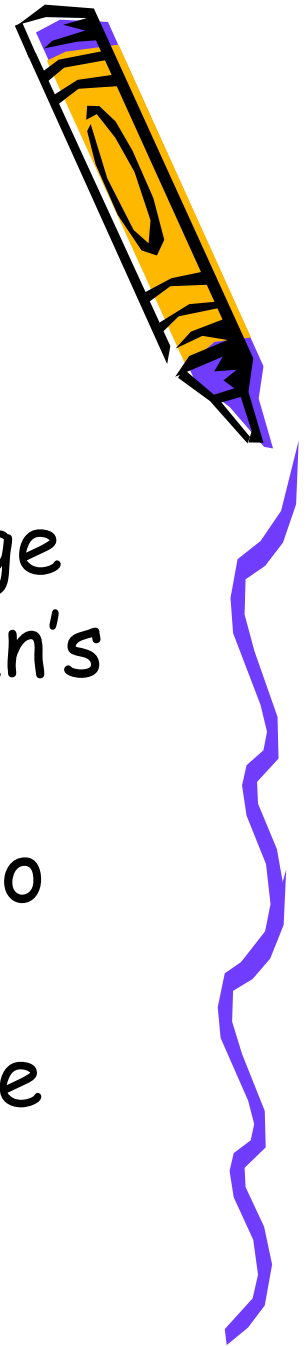
- These children may use any of the following forms of communication including
 - sign language,
 - picture communication,
 - object communication,
 - augmentative communication devices.



- Children may be just beginning their use of alternative forms of communication or experienced users. Ages two to eighteen welcome.



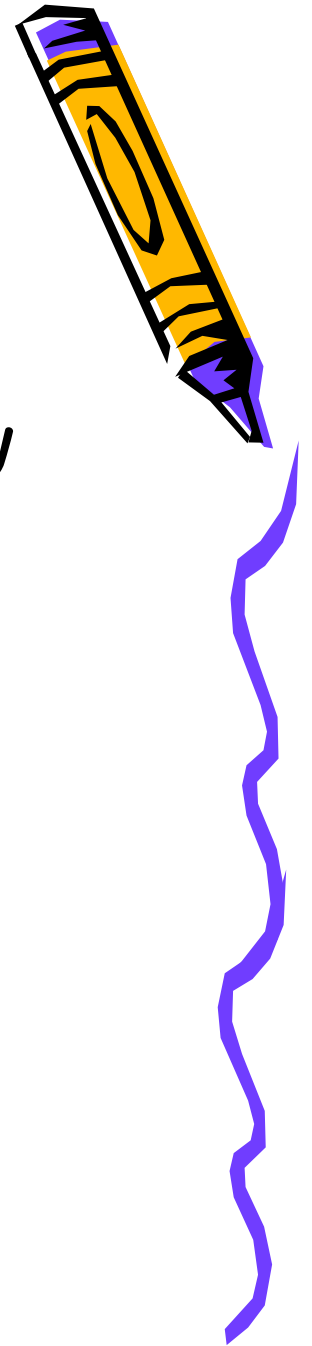
- The children presented with disorders including speech/language disorder, autism, apraxia, Angelman's syndrome, and cerebral palsy
- Two of the children were blind, two were wheelchair bound, one could ambulate with hand-held assistance



- One child used the Vanguard system by PRC
- One child used the DV4 from Dynavox
- Four children used various degrees of picture exchange communication
- One child used limited sign language

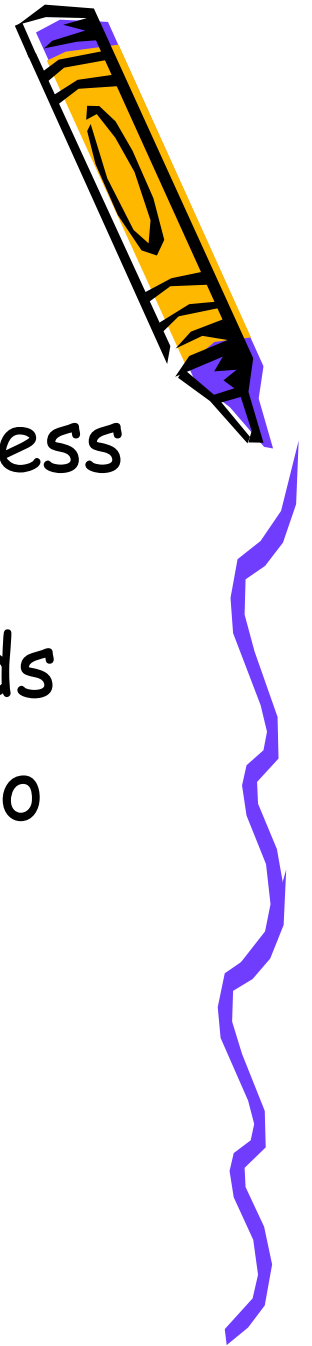
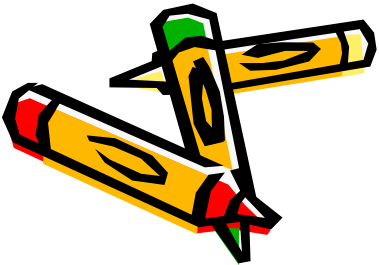


- Eight out of ten patients were new clients to the B-W speech clinic

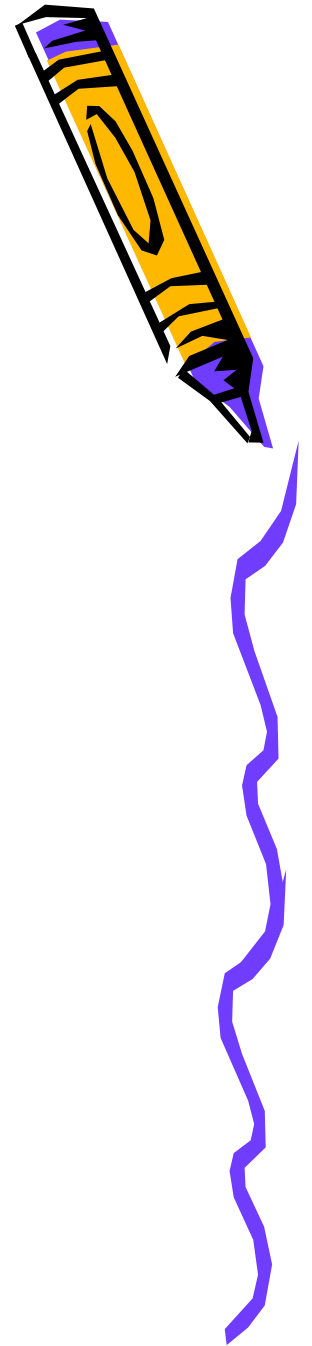


Evaluation Measures

- Looked for good measures to address functional communication skills
- Did not find any that met our needs
- Developed the following measure to examine communication skills in a hierarchy form.



- Example of completed evaluation



Daily Activities

Group One

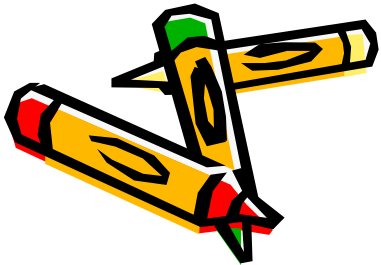
10-15 Minutes -Arrival Time (talked to parents and transitioned)

15-20 Minutes - Circle Time (Greeting Song, Calendar, Songs, Books)

60 minutes - Play and individual work time (worked on individual goals, peer related communication skills)

15-20 minutes of games (musical chairs, ball games)

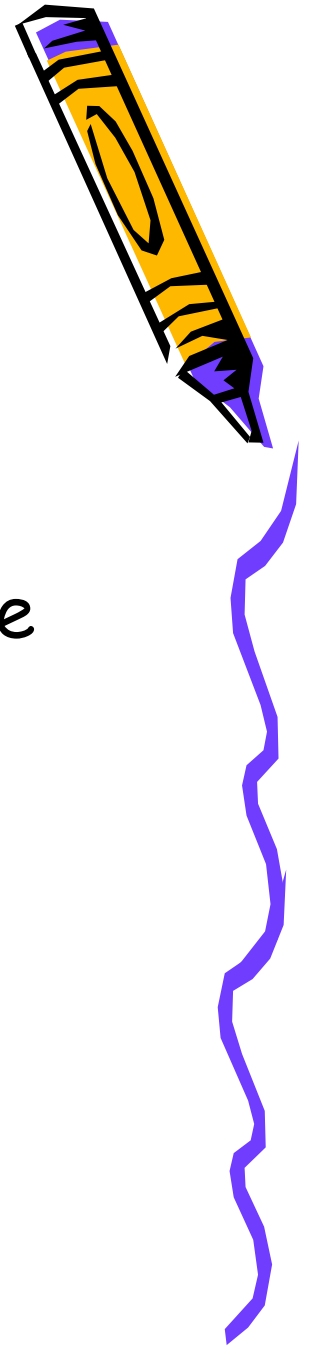
15 Closing Circle-goodbye and snack



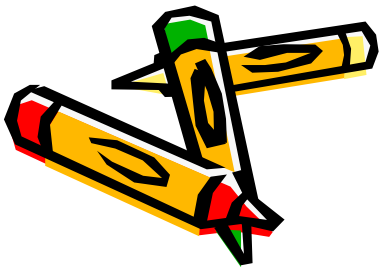
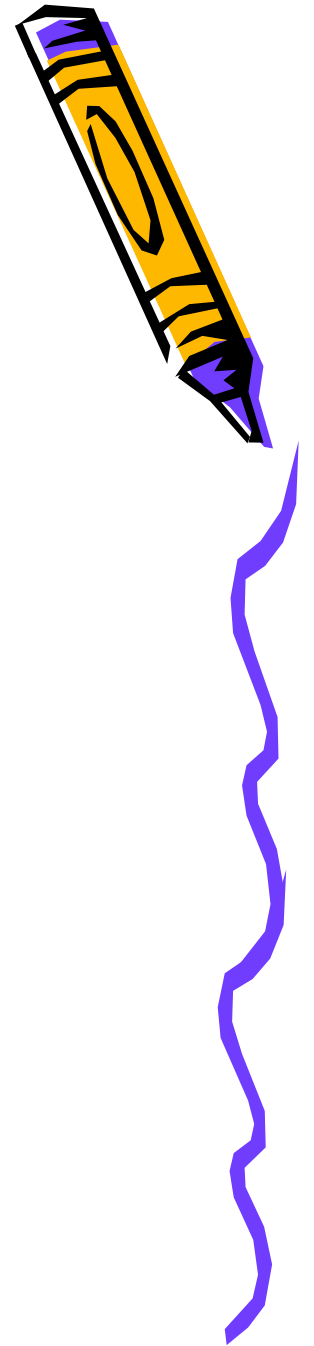
Daily Activities

Group Two

- 10-15 minutes- Arrival Time
- 20 Minutes of Group Activity-where the children used basic social language with peers
- 60 minutes- Rotating through individual work
- 20-30 minutes of wrap-up, dance time!!

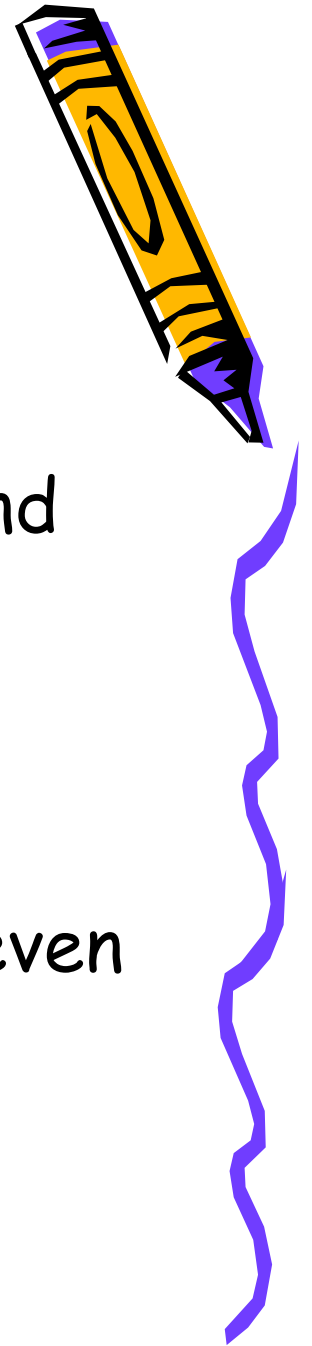


Data collection



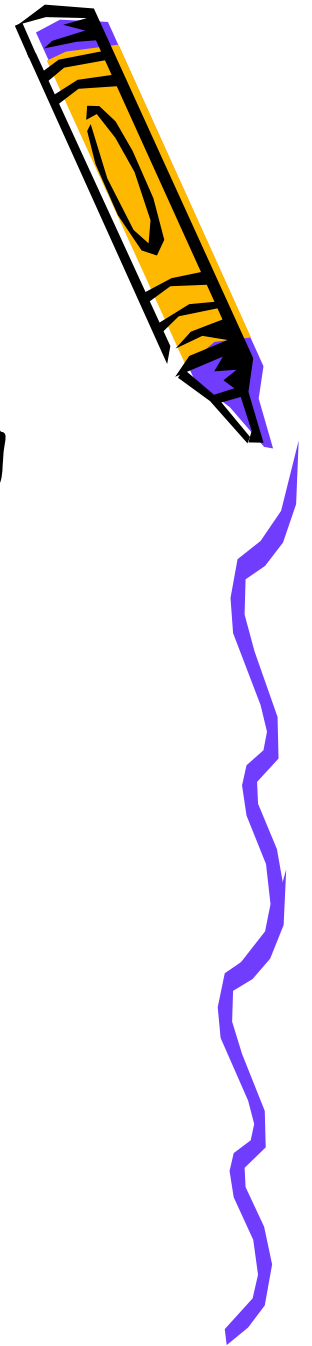
Intervention Strategies

- Used variety of strategies including small/large group, individual therapy, and peer modeling
- Trained undergraduate clinicians to be "highly responsive" to all types of communication
- Silence!!!!!! Waiting for communication even in its most basic of forms to happen.



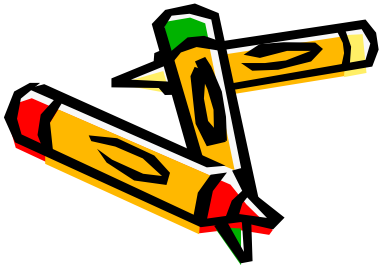
Intervention Strategies, Cont.

- Behavior Modification and Planning
 - "Super Nanny"
 - Individualized based on needs and abilities
- **CONSISTENCY**-consistency of therapists, parents, and routine



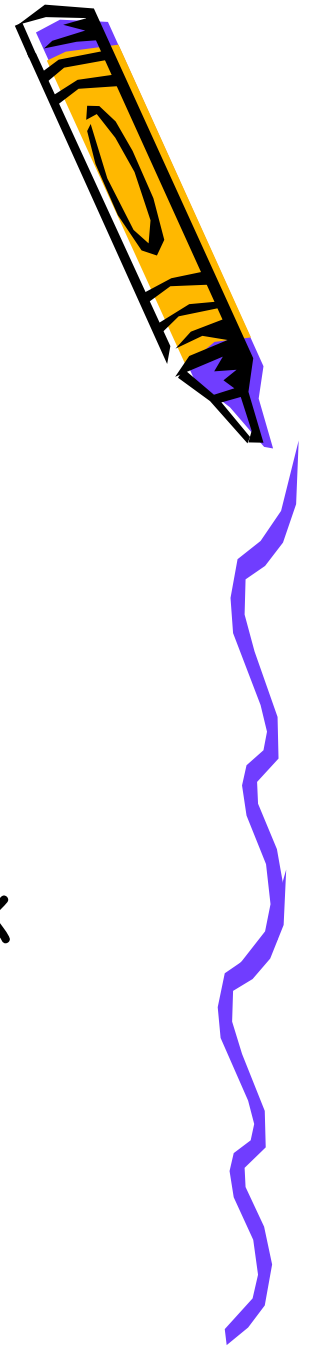
Progress of Participants

- Five children finished camp with verbal skills matching or exceeding previous methods/nonverbal skills
- The two children with devices exceeded goals using their current methods of communication
- One child was introduced to Mid-tech device (TechSpeak) and was able to use in simple functional activities
- Two children did not meet specified goals



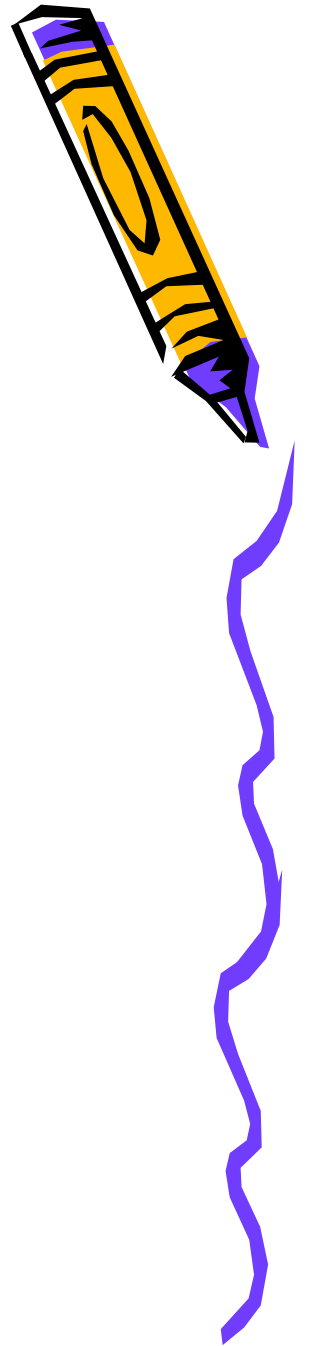
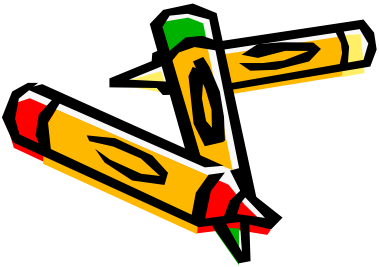
Parent Involvement

- Daily Logs sent home
- Take home activities
- Trained parents on how to use the take home activities
- Parents established social network for support



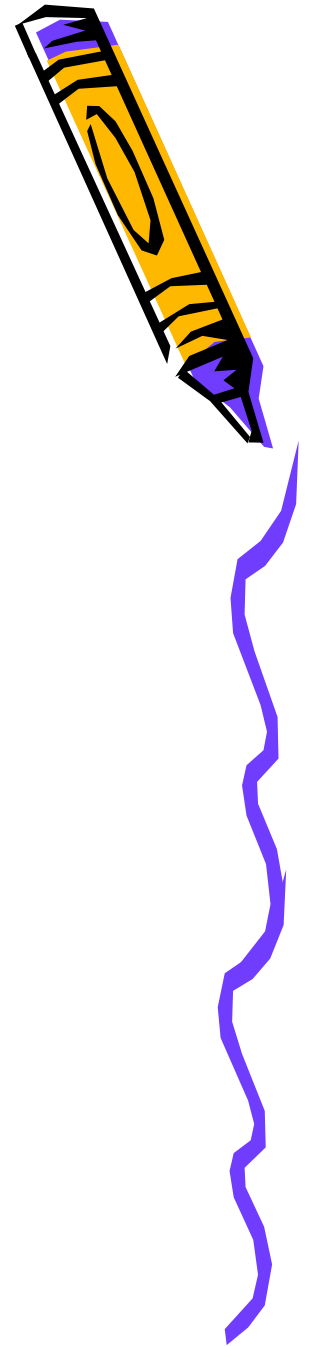
Parent Feedback

- Survey post-camp regarding experiences and suggestions



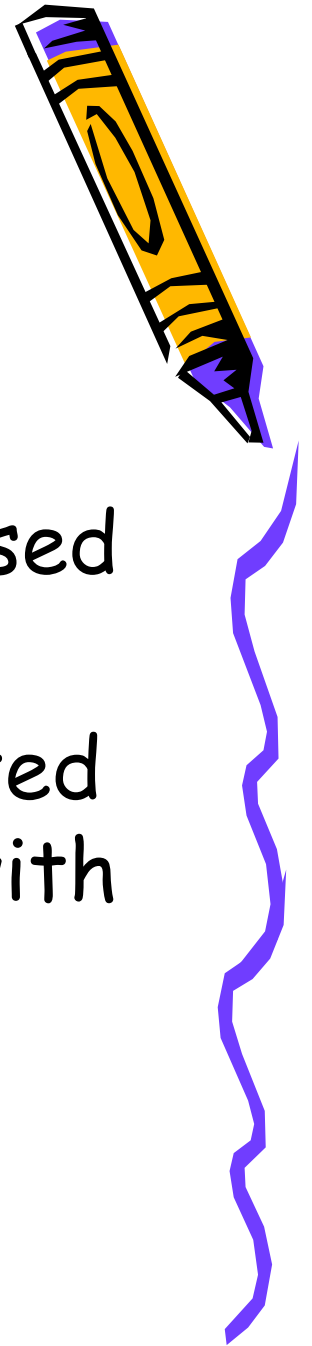
Home Programming

- Literacy Activities
- Adapting children's books
- Feelings pages for one participant



Results of Retrospective Research

- Pre- and post-camp test results revealed that all of the children used more communication functions
- All of the participants demonstrated a change in their communication, with more sophisticated modes of communication being attempted



Research Cont.

- Additional improvements were also noted in the campers' successfulness of communication and their ability to communicate with both familiar and unfamiliar partners
- It is hypothesized that the combination of the interventions was responsible for the improvements demonstrated by the participants, since all of the participants had previously received individual communication intervention

