



spontaneous speech, imitative speech, social-

prompting was allowed. If the child did not meet criterion (i.e., used five or more pictures to make a request in three consecutive sessions), two additional five-minute PECS training sessions were provided before the next probe session. A generalization session occurred within two weeks of the intervention final probe to examine whether treatment effects would generalize to a novel adult communication partner. Maintenance sessions were provided 5-6 weeks after the final probe session, using the same protocol as probe sessions.

Data was collected for each instance of the following maladaptive behaviours: screaming, aggression towards self or others, and out of seat behaviour. IOA was acceptable for all three boys during intervention and maintenance sessions, however, IOA fell below 80% for one boy during generalization. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, visual analysis, and Improvement Rate Difference (IRD), which was an index that compared data points in baseline and intervention sessions (including maintenance and generalization) to determine the degree of difference. While one boy showed a rapid decline in maladaptive behaviour on visual analysis, the two other boys' behaviour were variable. Furthermore, IRD indicated questionable effects on maladaptive behaviour.

Ganz et al. (2009) clearly described operational definitions of maladaptive behaviour,





