

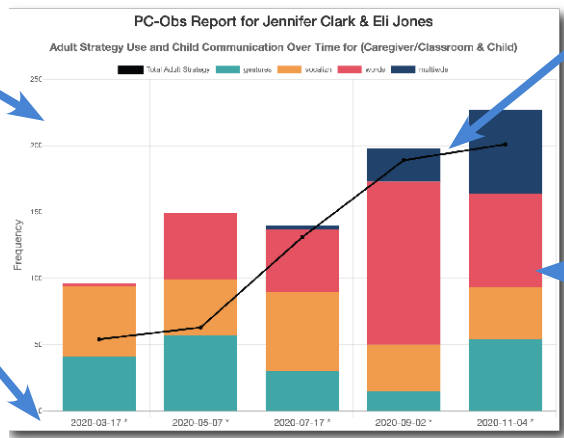
PC-Obs: Quick Guide to Report Interpretation

PC-Obs provides caregivers feedback regarding their use of communication strategies and child communication. Graphs serve as a tool in supporting caregivers to increase their use of these strategies. Include discussion of these graphs in your sessions with caregivers so they can see how their use of the PC TALK strategies impact child behavior over time. The graph and table can also be used to identify strategies to work on in future sessions.

The PC-Obs Bar Graph

While other pieces of data are meant for providers, the PC-Obs Bar Graph is the primary component that is shared with caregivers. It shows caregiver’s use of strategies and child communication over time. For many caregivers, you may need to provide a brief “orientation” to how to read the PC-Obs communication graphs. To do this, you may describe that:

- The **vertical**, or up and down, axis shows the frequency of parent communication and child communication.
- The **horizontal**, or flat axis, shows observations over time, with each column of data representing one day’s observation.



- The **dots connected by lines** represent the number of strategies used by parents. The first graph may have only one dot, not yet connected to others with a line.
- The **bars** represent child gestures, vocalizations, single words, and multiple-words, with a specific color showing these different types of child communication.

The PC-Obs Table

The table is a tool used by the provider to interpret the graph. We do not recommend sharing the table with caregivers. Instead, use the table for planning purposes and to provide positive and constructive verbal feedback to caregivers. If you notice an “**Adult Strategy**” is increasing, let the caregiver know about the positive change you are seeing. If you notice a caregiver does not use a specific strategy, consider focusing on that strategy or trying a new way to teach that strategy. “**Other Adult Talk**” can also be used to guide your interpretation and coaching of the caregiver. For example, if a caregiver has a high number of directions, but does not provide choices often, you can discuss the merits of providing choices and how it can reduce the number of times a caregiver needs to provide directions.

Last, we have “**Child Communication**.” The information on the table is provided on the graph, but if you need specific numbers, they can be found here.

Date	2020-03-17	2020-05-07	2020-07-17	2020-09-02	2020-11-04
Observer	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid
Total time spent on observation	00:15:00	00:15:00	00:15:00	00:15:00	00:15:00
ADULT STRATEGIES					
Comments & labels	33	18	45	39	82
Imitates & expands	2	6	10	30	18
Asks open-ended questions	6	14	32	41	44
Asks Yes/No questions	9	24	34	78	61
Gives praise & positive attention	0	0	3	0	3
Provides choices	4	1	7	1	12
Time-delay/fill-in-the-blank	0	0	0	0	1
Total Adult Strategies	54	63	131	189	201
OTHER ADULT TALK					
Talk to Other Adult	0	4	2	5	4
Talk to Other Children	10	10	10	12	8
Gives directions or instructions	13	6	2	2	0
Uses disapproval or prohibitions	5	1	3	2	0
CHILD COMMUNICATION					
Gestures	41	57	30	15	54
Vocalizations	53	42	60	35	39
Words	2	10	47	123	71
Multiwords	0	0	3	25	83

Environment Data

Every time a PC-Obs is collected, the observer also answers questions about the environment. There are two different ways the environment data can be helpful.

1. If you see something in the PC-Obs bar graph that is unusual or stands out to you, look at the environment data to see if there is anything different about the environment for that observation.
2. If you are focused on changing the environment to encourage communication and adult-child interactions, use the Environment Data table to look at change over time and progress toward goals.

Date	2020-03-17	2020-05-07	2020-07-17	2020-09-02	2020-11-04
Observer	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid	James Reid
Children's books are accessible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adult looked at books with child	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Child looked at books alone or only with children	No	Yes	No	No	No
Adult facilitates social interactions and/or cooperative play	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electronic devices are primarily used in a manner that facilitates social interaction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Competing activities are minimal	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Room and materials arranged to facilitate social interaction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Child able to access a variety of toys and materials	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

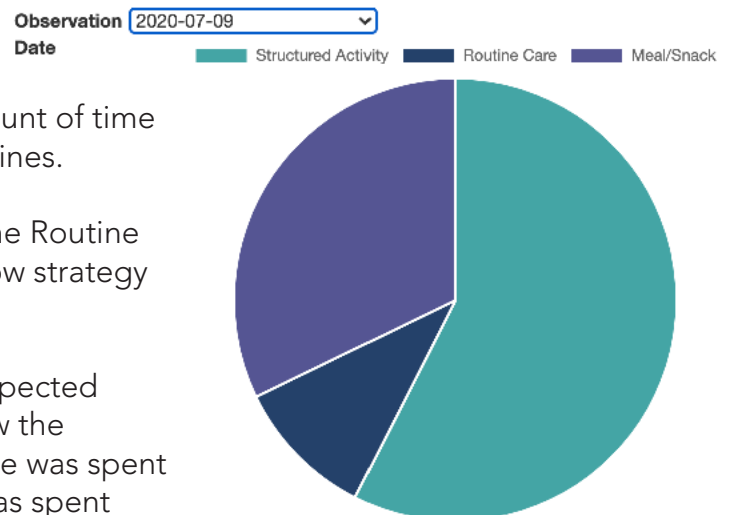
Routine Pie Chart

PC-Obs keeps track of the amount of time spent in different routines or activities during the observation. You can then view how the observation time was spent with the pie chart.

For example, during the observation on 7/9/20, the caregiver and child spent most of their time in structured activities, but also spent a good amount of time having a meal/snack, and a bit of time in care routines.

When you pair the Adult Strategy Use data with the Routine Pie Chart, you may be able to identify trends in how strategy use relates to routines.

For example, if a caregiver's graph shows an unexpected decrease in strategy use, you may want to see how the observation time is usually spent, and how the time was spent during that observation. If the observation time was spent in a routine that isn't usually observed, it may be the caregiver needs additional coaching on how to use the Promoting Communication Strategies during that type of routine or activity.



How do I introduce graphs to a caregiver for the first time?

When first explaining graphs, it can be helpful to tell caregivers that graphs give us a visual cue to show how caregivers and children are communicating over time. Graphs allow us to see when caregivers are using more or fewer strategies, or when children are using more or fewer gestures, words, etc.

You can also explain that we expect to see day-to-day variation, and that although some data points may be lower than previous data points, this is not necessarily a problem. There is no specific rule about how many strategies should be used in a given activity or in a given day. Our goal is to see an overall increase in the use of the strategies and child communication over time – a general “goes up-ness” of adult and child communication.

What do we talk about when I bring updated graphs?

Updated graphs can give you a “starting off” point in your discussion with families. When you bring updated graphs to share, it can be helpful to provide a brief review of what is shown in the graph, as described above, and to remind the caregiver we expect to see variation over time and are most interested in seeing a general increase over time. This shows that caregivers are using communication promoting strategies more over time, and children’s communication is growing.

We have found that it is most helpful to start a discussion of the graphs by giving some **positive feedback** about caregiver and child progress. This can then be followed with a discussion of **what has worked well**, any **new strategies** or activities the caregiver would like to work on next, **problem-solving** how strategies can be used in a new activity or routine, or how a caregiver can change or increase their use of strategies to best suit their child’s communication.

For example,

- *“I see that you’re the strategies more recently and that Jason used about 10 more vocalizations this month’s observation than he did the last two observations. That’s great news!”* This might be followed by a quick discussion of this increase, why it occurred, if the caregiver finds there has truly been an overall increase throughout the week, etc.
- *“I wonder if you might try providing choices a little more often than giving directions. So, instead of saying, ‘Come over here and color,’ you could ask, ‘Do you want to color or look at a book now?’ This gives the child more opportunities to communicate.”*

The graphs can help begin your discussion of “**what’s next**” in promoting communication, as well as help to increase, improve, or refine the caregivers’ use of the strategies when needed.

We may see that caregiver communication and child communication increase at different rates. This is also okay, as it may take some time for children to build their communication in response to caregivers’ increased use of strategies over time.

We also may see that as child words and multiple-words increase, vocalizations and gestures may decrease, or stop increasing. We would expect to see this, because more words and multiple-words means the child is communicating more effectively, and does not need to use as many vocalizations or gestures as before.

Visit our website - www.talk.ku.edu - to access additional PC TALK resources, including the PC TALK Manual, video tutorials, and the PC-Obs System.