

# New England Center for Children Stimulus Preference Assessment Luchka Pierre Healthcare studies

## Introduction

- New England Center for Children(NECC) provides comprehensive services for children with autism: home-based, day, and residential programs, partner classrooms in public school systems, consulting services, and autism curriculum software for teachers.
- Their research center, John and Diane Kim Autism Institute are where they study how children with autism best learn.
- In 1996 NECC opened the Staff Intensive Unit (SIU) – a unique residential complex for children with severely challenging behaviors.
- In 2003 the first lesson was published in the Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia® (ACE®).
- The ACE software soon expanded into public schools in New England and New York.
- The John and Diane Kim Autism Institute opened in October of 2016, marking it the biggest expansion of the NECC campus to date.



## Related Literature

- “Results suggest that preference assessments containing edible stimuli can yield useful information for behavior analysts providing services to children with ASD( Connie & Volmer, 2018)”.
- “Commonly referred to as preference assessments, are direct in that they rely on the observation of an individual’s behavior in relation to a particular stimulus rather than upon the verbal report of a caregiver alone, which frequently has been shown to be relatively non-predictive of reinforcer strength(Tiger & Klibert, 2011)”.

## Objectives

- To see which snack(s) the students preferred when told to choose between two snacks at a time
- To determine which snacks are the most effective at supporting a student’s motivation
- Observe and document tailored snack preferences
- Support the development of an organizational tool to determine and document a snack motivation profile

## Materials and Methods

- Created a list of 8 snacks(a combination of sweet and salty)that the student likes
- Set up 56 trails with two snacks being presented
- Trails were run across two sessions
- Presented two snacks at a time, one on the left side and one on the right side
- Before presenting the snacks made sure the student was attending
- Site Supervisor helped developed the assessment preference sheet

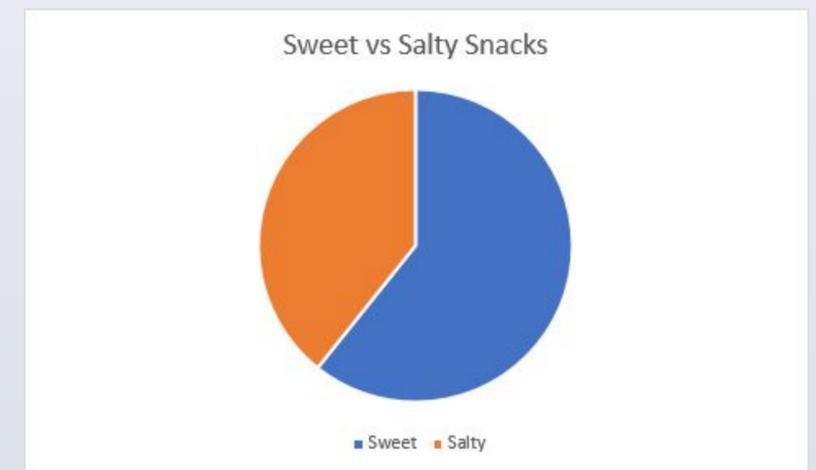
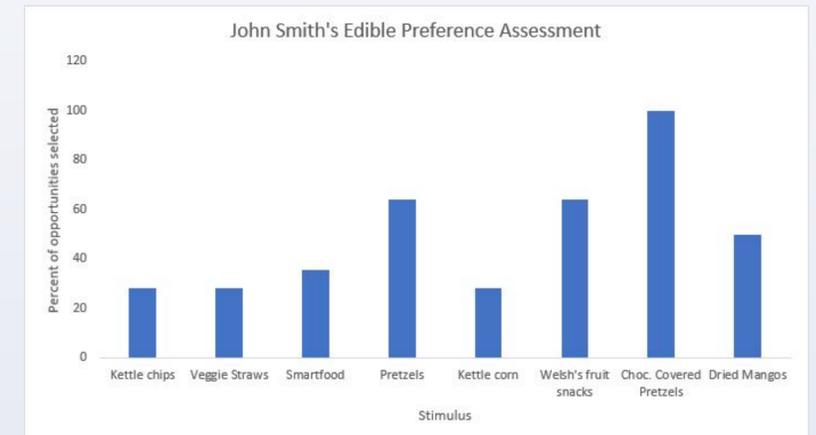
NECC Preference Assessment

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Two-Item Stimulus-Choice Stimulus Preference Assessment Data Sheet

Test Administrator: 10/26/2020 Data: Circle Item Number Chosen by Student. ✓ NR if no choice. IOA Observer:

Name	Team	Trial	Left position	Right position	NR	Order? Y/N	Trial	Left position	Right position	NR	Order? Y/N
1. Kettle Chips		1	1	2			29	2	1		
2. Veggie Straws		2	3	4			30	4	3		
3. Smartfood		3	5	6			31	6	5		
4. Pretzels		4	7	8			32	8	7		
5. Kettle corn		5	2	3			33	3	2		
6. Welsh's fruit snacks		6	4	5			34	5	4		
7. Choc. covered pretzels		7	8	2			35	2	8		
8. Dried mangos		8	6	7			36	7	6		
		9	3	3			37	1	3		
		10	4	2			38	2	4		
		11	7	5			39	5	7		
		12	8	6			40	6	8		
		13	5	3			41	3	5		
		14	8	1			42	1	8		
		15	6	4			43	4	6		
		16	4	1			44	1	4		
		17	2	5			45	5	2		
		18	3	6			46	6	3		
		19	4	7			47	7	4		
		20	5	8			48	8	5		
		21	1	5			49	5	1		
		22	2	6			50	6	2		
		23	3	7			51	7	3		
		24	8	4			52	4	8		
		25	6	1			53	1	6		
		26	7	2			54	2	7		
		27	8	3			55	3	8		
		28	7	1			56	1	7		

## Results



## Conclusions

From the assessment, I was able to gather which snacks were highly preferred compared to other snacks that weren't preferred as much. The assessment helps the ABA(applied behavior analysis) teachers know what snacks to use if they need John to do his work. It can also help other ABA teachers set up their own stimulus preference assessment with their own students to gain data about their students.

Based on the data the chocolate-covered pretzels were the only edible chosen every time while the kettle chips and veggie straws were the least chosen edibles. As well as sweet snacks being the overall preferred snacks over salty snacks.

## References

- Conine, D. E. (2019, May 1). *Relative preferences for edible and leisure stimuli in children with autism*. Wiley Online Library. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jaba.525>
- Tiger, J. H., & Klibert, M. L. (2011). *Stimulus Preference Assessment*. APA PsycNet. <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2011-10159-004>