



Center for Diversity in
Public Health Leadership Training
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

What Evidence Based Strategies Do Parents Spontaneously Use With Their Infants?

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INTRODUCTION

- Although clinicians have improved identifying and treating early signs of autism, there are still barriers that stop families from treatment
- Barriers to early identification:
 - Long waitlists for assessments
 - Traveling long distances
 - Lack of specialized providers
- The TEDI project has developed a telehealth assessment for infants to improve families' access to treatment options
 - Provide support and resources
- Goal: To identify behavioral strategies that could be taught in future intervention



OBJECTIVE

1. To examine whether parents spontaneously use specific developmental support strategies at fidelity
2. To determine whether parents use certain strategies at higher fidelity than others

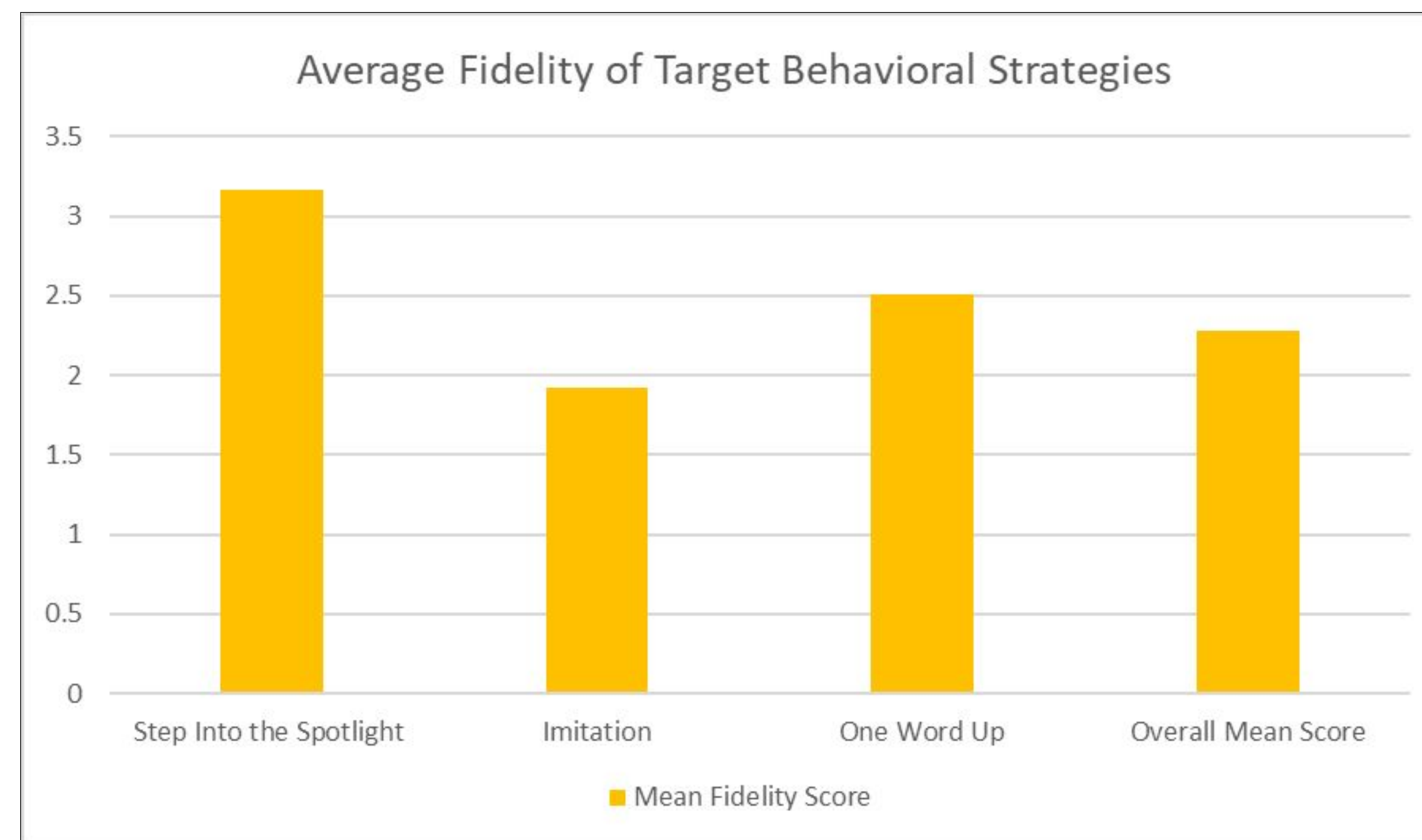
METHODS

- Participants: 17 Parents (N=17)
 - Self-selected sample
- 1-hour session, two 3-min segments of free play
 - Parent was instructed to “play as you normally would” with their 8-12 month old child during parent-child interactions
- Scored 3 target strategies on a 1-5 Likert Scale:
 - **Step Into the Spotlight:** face-to-face, close contact
 - **Imitation:** facial expressions, vocalization, gestures
 - **One Word Up:** labeling/interpreting actions, feelings, expressions, reactions
- Conducted a Wilcoxon-signed rank-test
- Compared parent mean fidelity score to a score of 4, representing target fidelity levels
- Compared parent mean fidelity scores on each strategy using repeated measures ANOVA and post-hoc pairwise tests

RESULTS

- The mean fidelity scores were significantly lower than the target fidelity score of 4 ($Z = .000, p > .001$)
- There was a statistically significant effect of behavior category on mean fidelity score, $F(2, 30) = 14.257, p < .001$
- Post-hoc, pairwise tests found that mean fidelity scores for Imitation were significantly lower than both Step Into the Spotlight ($p = < .001$) and One Word Up ($p = .008$), which did not differ from each other ($p = .10$)

Figure 1: Mean scores for SIS, I, OWU and overall mean score (N=17)



METHODS (cont'd)

Demographics

	PARENT	INFANT
SEX	N/A	Male: 64.7% Female: 35.3%
RACE	Asian: 11.8% Asian, White: 5.9% White: 82.4%	Asian: 11.8% Asian, White: 23.5% White: 64.7%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino: 0 Non-Hispanic or Latino: 100%	Hispanic or Latino: 5.9% Non-Hispanic or Latino: 94.1%

DISCUSSION

Conclusion:

- Overall, parents did not spontaneously use these behavioral strategies at fidelity
 - There was significant variability in the use of their strategies
- Our findings suggest these behaviors may be good candidate intervention targets because they are skills that need to be taught

Next Steps:

- Determine whether parents use of these strategies improves infant development
- Work with families to identify areas of need and develop supports for them in those areas

Future Direction:

- Identify new strategies for parents that are more desirable and feasible

STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

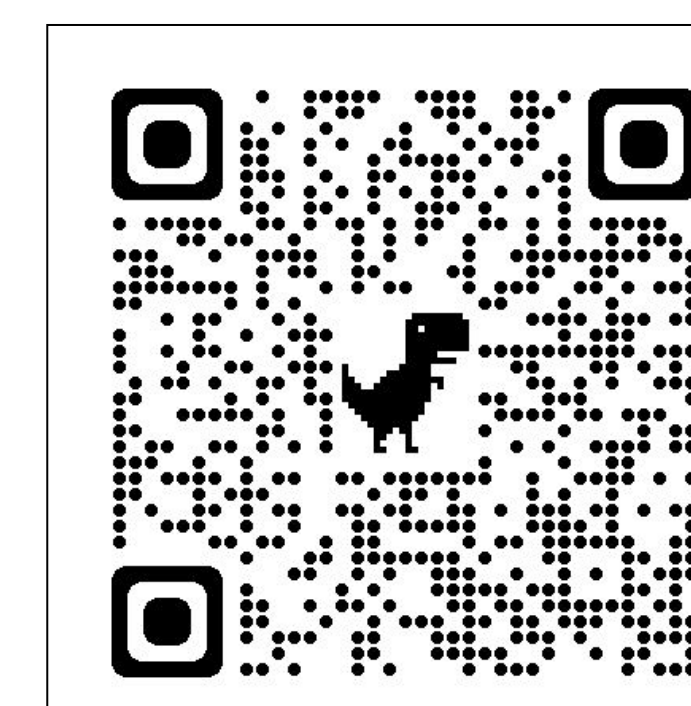
Strengths:

- Inclusion of families with concerns about their infants development
- Convenience of telehealth

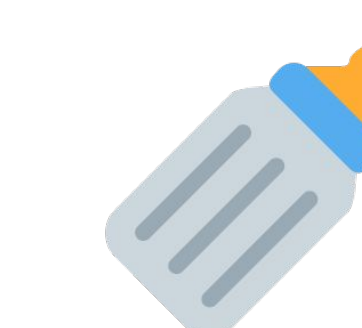
Limitations:

- Time constraints
- Small sample size

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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I would like to express my gratitude to my mentor Dr. Meagan Talbott and members of the TEDI lab for their assistance and direction throughout this project as well as their ongoing support!



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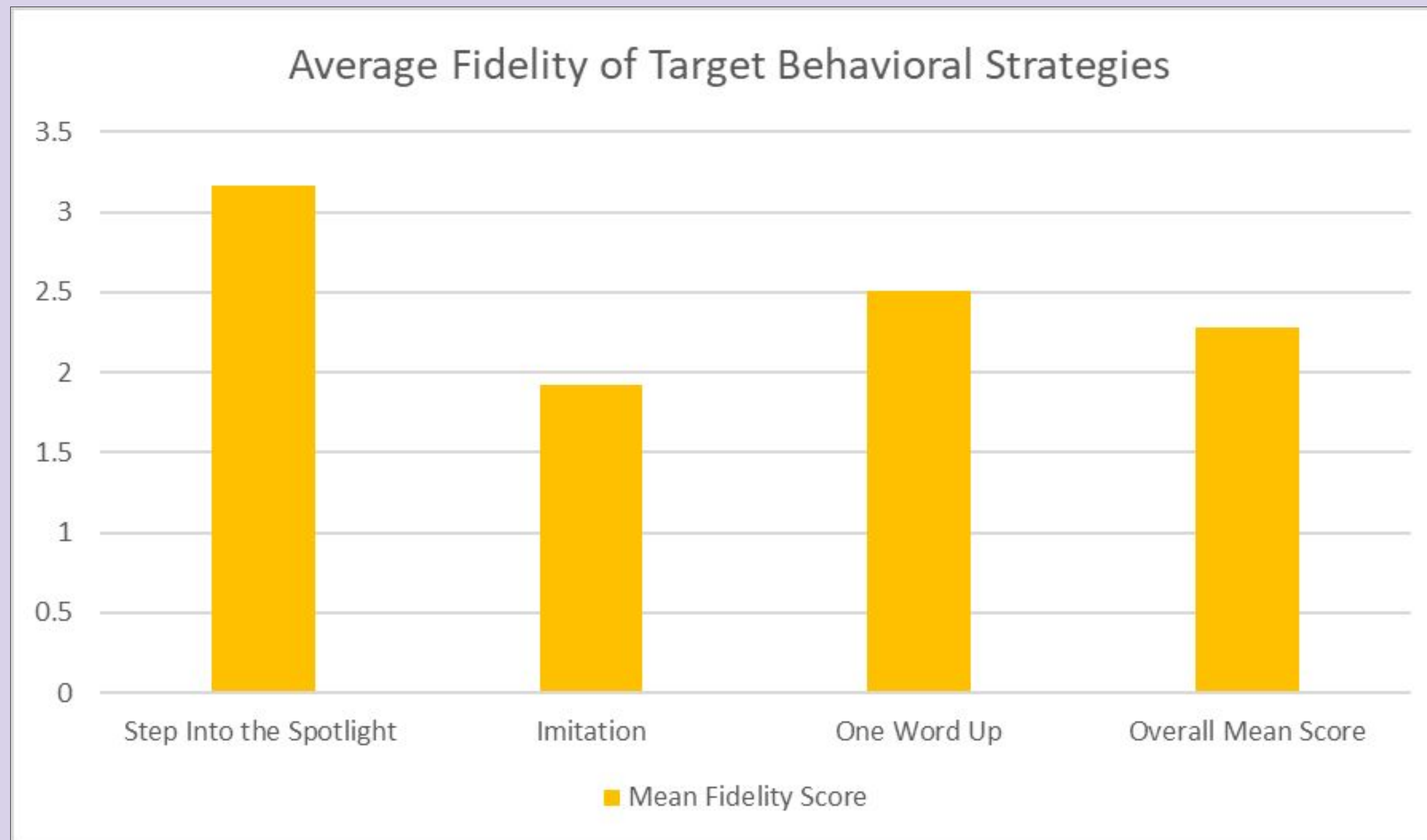
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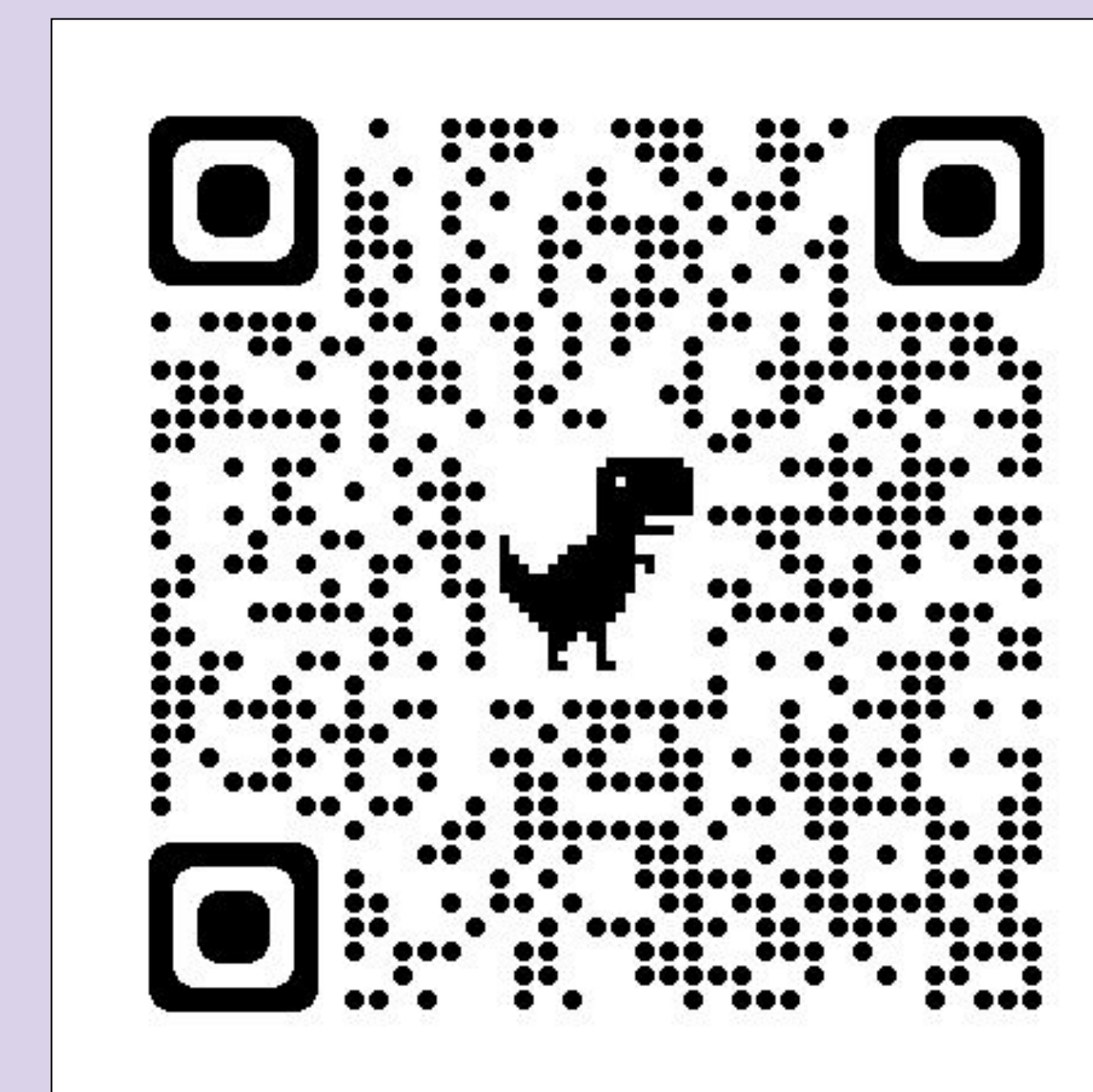
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REFERENCES



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