

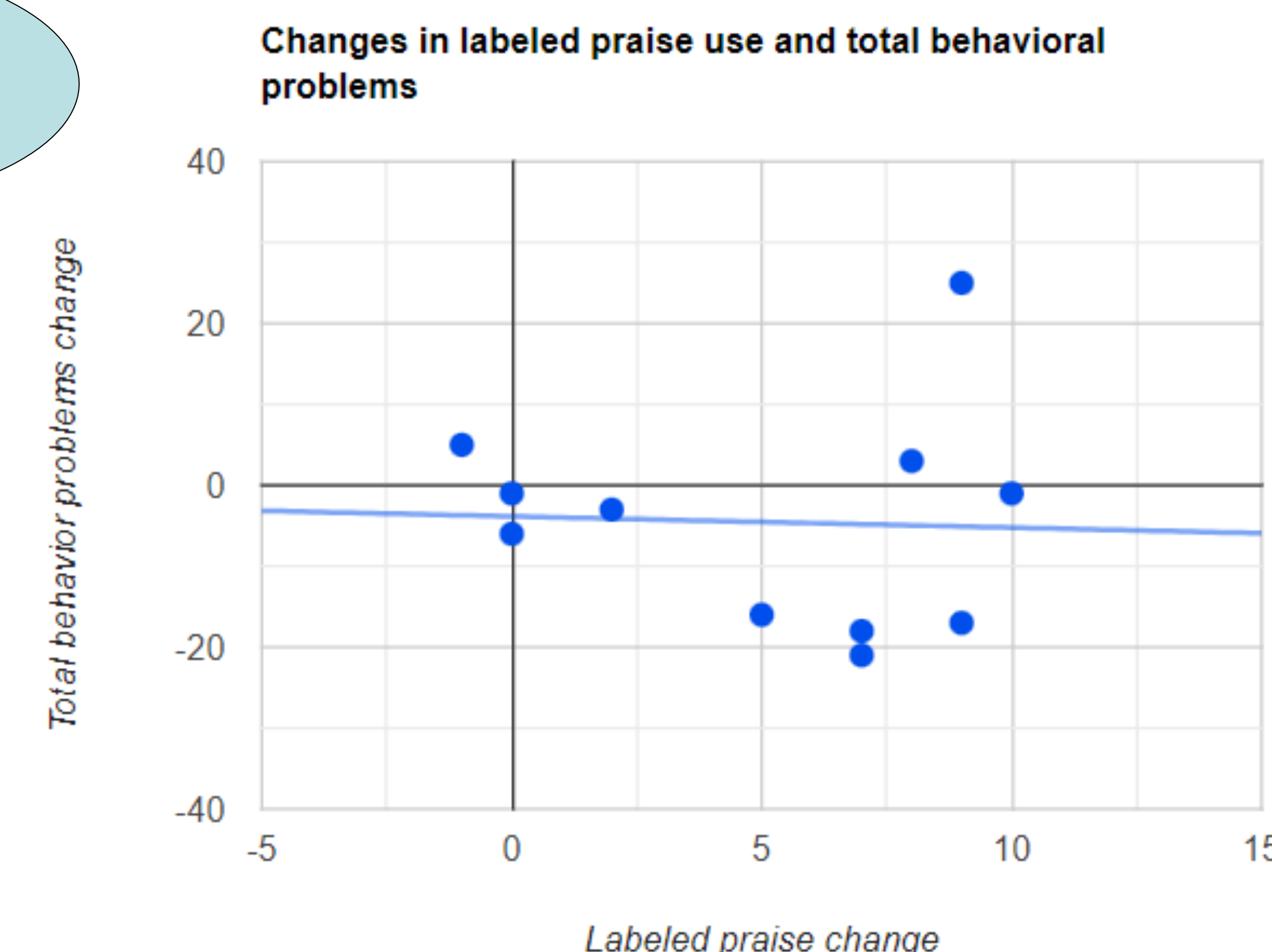
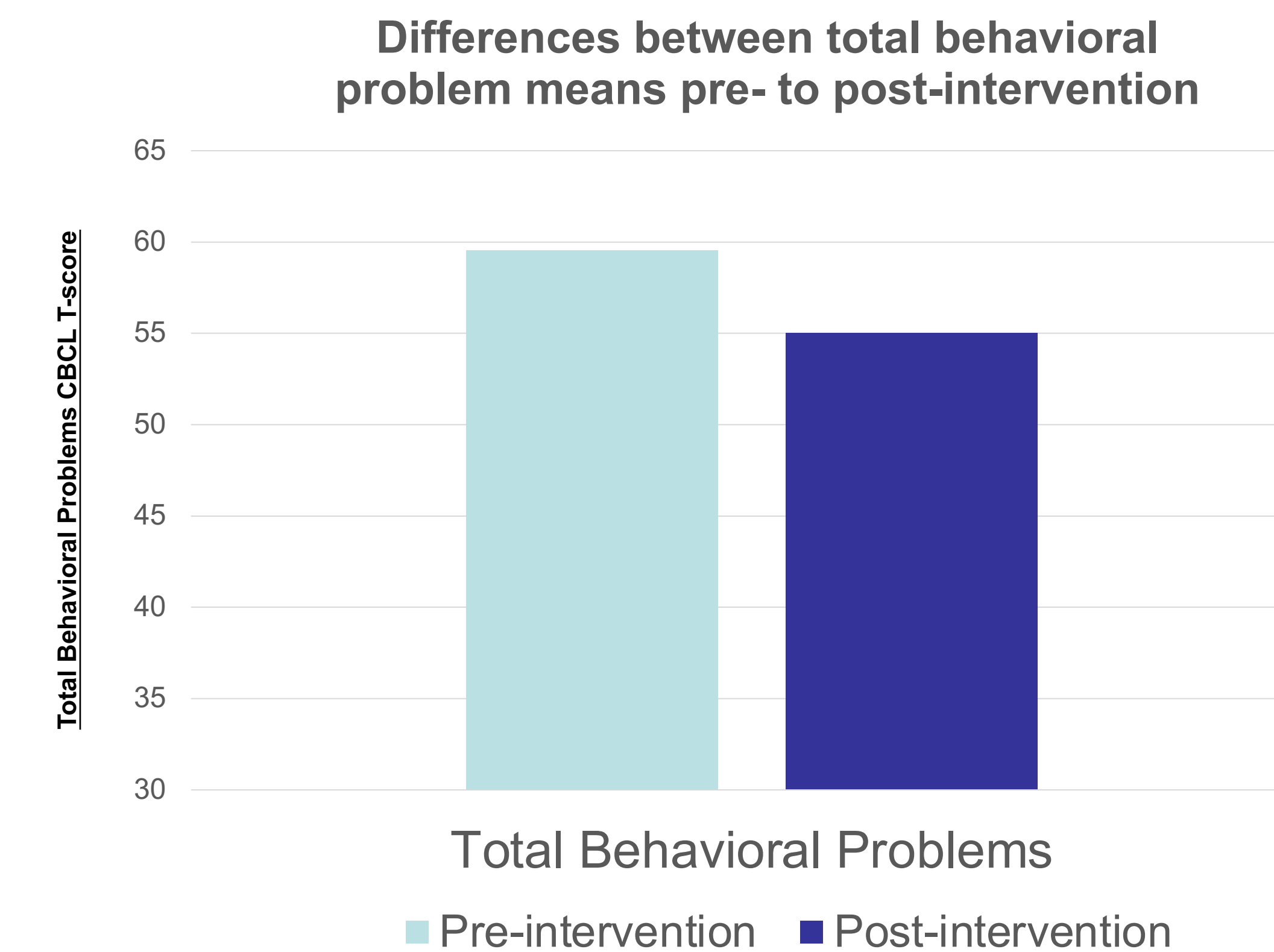
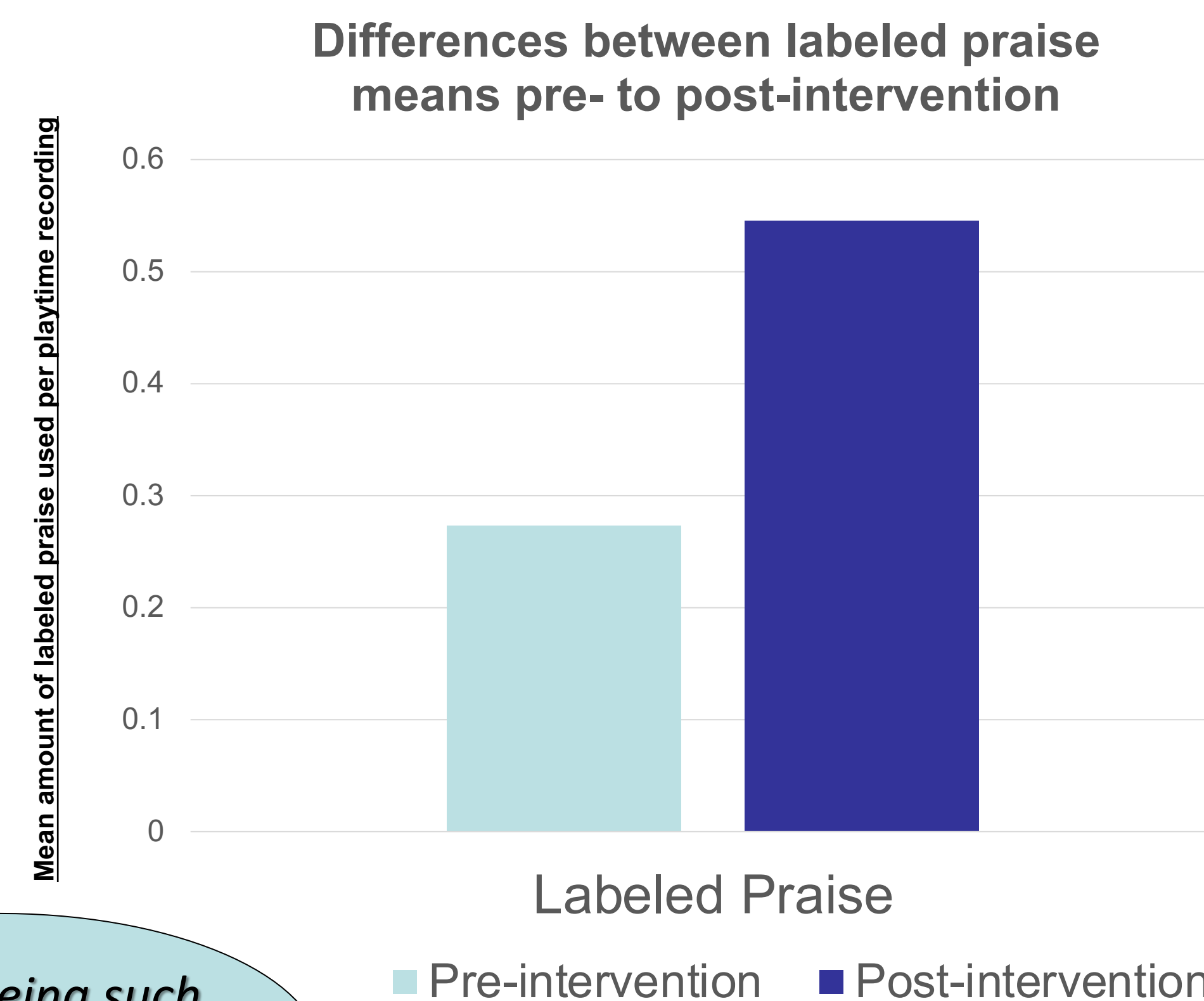
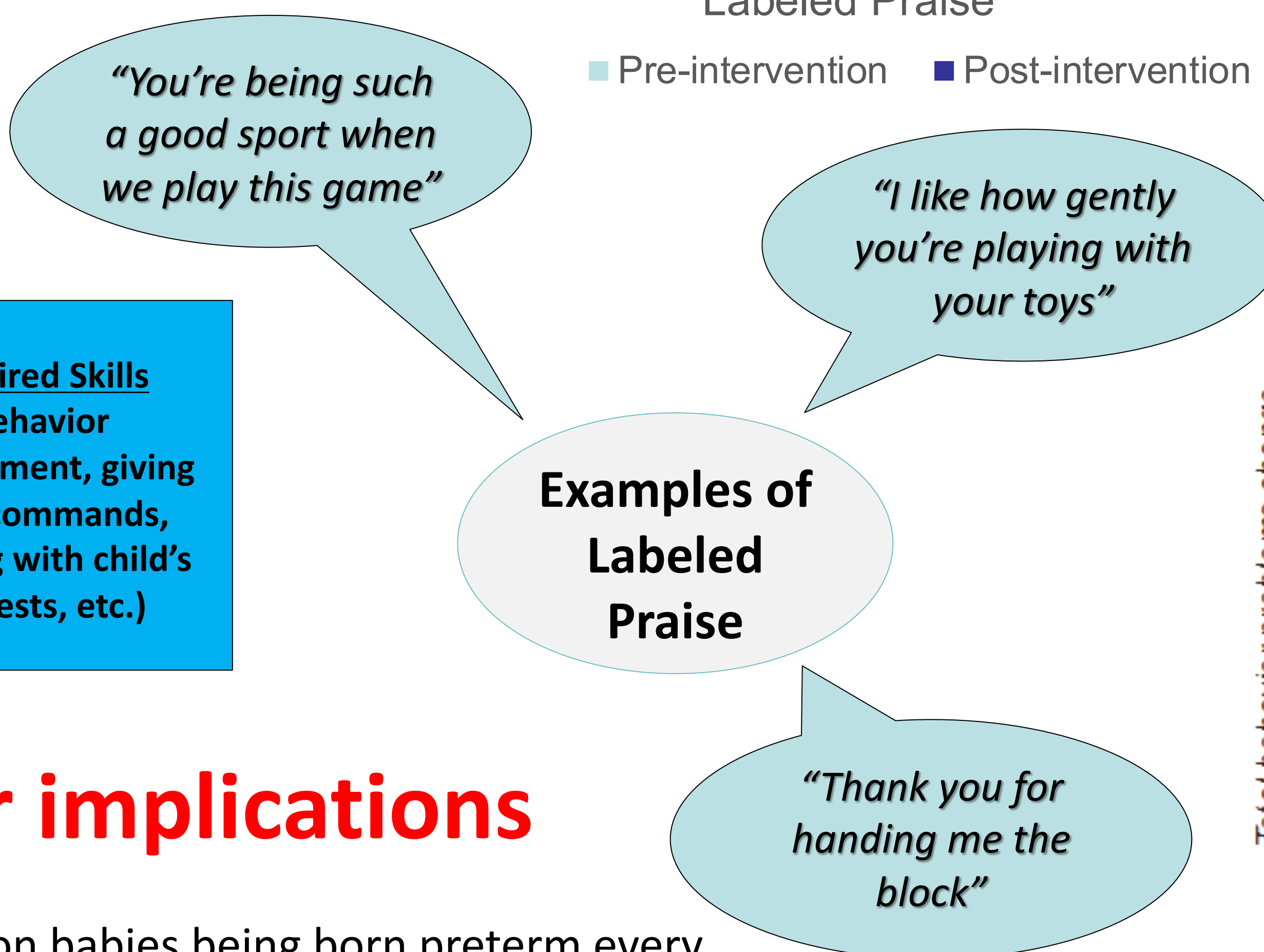
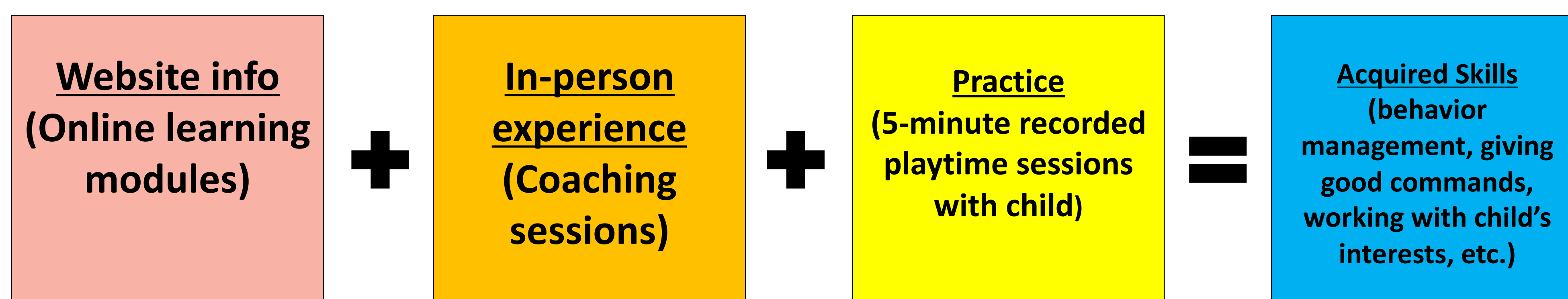
# Does parental praise of positive behavior decrease negative behavior in children born preterm?

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## Background

- Children who are born 32 weeks or less prior to gestation are considered very preterm (VPT)
- Children born VPT are at a higher risk of developing and exhibiting several behavioral issues<sup>1</sup>
- Clinical interventions focused on the relationship between the child and their parent(s) have been proven to be effective in reducing these issues [citation].
- The Building Better Brains and Behavior program (B4) program is designed to provide the parents of VPT children with communication strategies to both improve and reinforce the parent-child relationship while reducing the prevalence of behavior issues

### B4 Intervention Components



## Intervention & Collection of data

## Broader implications

With roughly 15 million babies being born preterm every year, constituting 11% of all live births<sup>2</sup>, it is important now more than ever to gain a solid understanding of the following:

- What causes VPT birth?
- What are the long-term effects of VPT birth on behavior?
- What can be done to mitigate these behavioral issues at a young age?
- What methods of prevention and intervention are the most effective?

Learning what is and is not effective at lessening the impacts of these behavioral issues while individuals are children will both help provide a better understanding of the issues associated with VPT birth and improve the lives of families with VPT children.

## Conclusions

- Although there was not a strong correlation between labeled praise and behavior problems, results still indicated a significant increase in labeled praise
- For this reason, it is worth looking at other factors, such as impact on individual behavioral problems or other tactics used by parents that may have significantly impacted outcomes
- A larger sample size is also needed for conclusive results due to the small number of participants in this study

## References

- <sup>(1)</sup>Yates, R., Treyvaud, K., Doyle, L. W., Ure, A., Cheong, J. L. Y., Lee, K. J., Inder, T. E., Spencer-Smith, M., & Anderson, P. J. (2020). Rates and stability of mental health disorders in children born very preterm at 7 and 13 years. *Pediatrics*, 145(5). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2699>
- <sup>(2)</sup>Wolke, D. (2018). Preterm birth: High vulnerability and no resiliency? reflections on Van Lieshout et al. (2018). *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 59(11), 1201–1204. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.12971>

- VPT children between the ages of 3-8 were recruited for the program
- Parents of 11 children completed the study
- Labeled praise use was measured via Dyadic Parent-Child Interactions Coding System (DPICs) coding of 5-minute parent-child playtime recordings
- Total behavior problems were measured via parent ratings of their child's behavior on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) pre- and post-intervention
- Paired-samples t-tests showed significant increase in labeled praise pre- ( $M=0.27$ ,  $SD=0.47$ ) to post-intervention ( $M=4.55$ ,  $SD=4.01$ ;  $t(10)=-3.42$ ,  $p=0.007$ )
- No significant reduction in behavior problems pre- ( $M=59.55$ ,  $SD=17.82$ ) to post-intervention ( $M=55.00$ ,  $SD=12.17$ ;  $t(10)=1.13$ ,  $p=0.286$ )
- No significant correlation between changes in labeled praise and behavior problems pre- to post-intervention ( $p=0.901$ ).