



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1991, 2nd Annual JWP Conference

Apr 27th, 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Fragile X Syndrome: A Case Study in Behavioral Change

Debra Aschbrenner

Illinois Wesleyan University

James Dougan, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Valeri Farmer-Dougan, Faculty Advisor

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Debra Aschbrenner; James Dougan, Faculty Advisor; and Valeri Farmer-Dougan, Faculty Advisor, "Fragile X Syndrome: A Case Study in Behavioral Change" (April 27, 1991). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 43.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1991/posters/43>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

FRAGILE X SYNDROME: A CASE STUDY IN BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

Debra Aschbrenner, Dept. of Psychology, IWU,
James Dougan*, Valeri Farmer-Dougan*

Fragile X syndrome is a chromosomal abnormality which is the second leading cause of mental retardation after Down's Syndrome. Symptoms include low cognitive ability, poor social skills, and impaired memory. There is no known treatment. The present case study examined a behavioral intervention technique (discrimination training with self-modeling) as a possible treatment for Fragile X symptoms. The subject was a male, 7 years of age, who had been diagnosed with Fragile X two years previously. Prior to intervention, the subject had suffered a six-month decline in cognitive ability and social skills. In particular, the subject had difficulty exhibiting the appropriate behavior at the appropriate time of day. The intervention consisted of presenting the subject with a picture book, each page of which had a photograph of the subject engaged in a particular activity. When viewed sequentially, the picture book served as a discriminative aid for determining which activities were appropriate at which times. Following intervention, the subject showed improvement on five independent behavioral measures. The results suggest that self-modeling may be an effective treatment for Fragile X syndrome.