Prader-Willi and Computer Programming: a case report.

Silvestro Maccarrone, Angela Antonia Costanzo, Francesco Domenico Di Blasi, Maria Agatina Stimoli, Paola Occhipinti, Serafino Buono.

Oasi Research Institute-IRCCS, Troina, Italy

Introduction

Teaching computer programming represents an innovative rehabilitation practice as it allows people with Prader Willi Syndrome (PWS) to be able to express their potential skills, if appropriately stimulated.
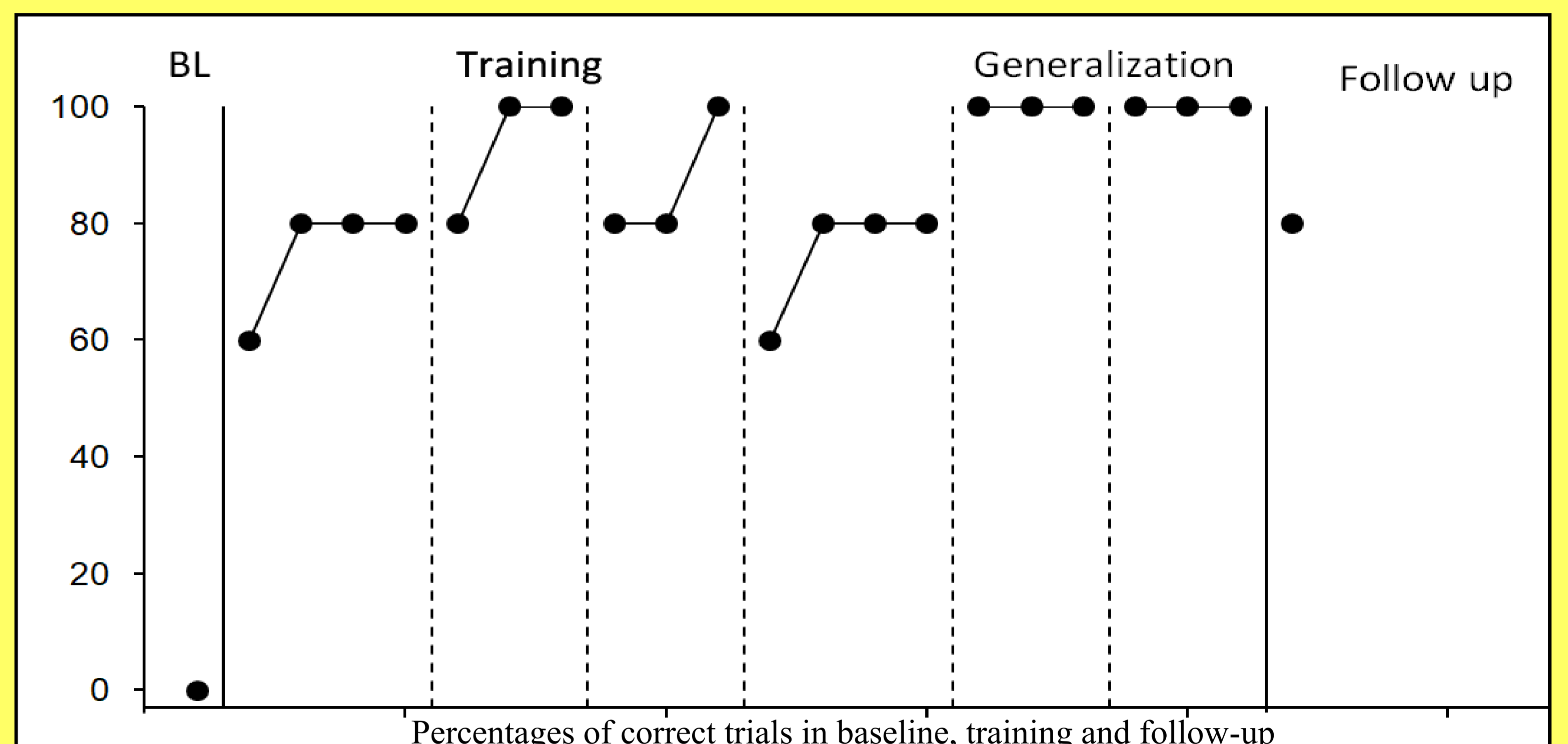The activity was carried out at the multimedia educational laboratory of the Oasi Research Institute (Troina, Italy).

Aim

The objective of this study is to present a computer programming structured learning path addressed to a young adult with PWS and Intellectual Disability.

Method

For this purpose, an authoring software (Jclic) was used which easily allows to create teaching exercises based on the specific profile of cognitive and adaptive functioning, usable and replicable in the various areas of development (daily life, play, communication, accessibility, school learning, etc.). A teaching procedure including a baseline was implemented; a training phase with the use of most to least prompts (from the most intrusive to the least intrusive) and a follow-up after a month, to verify the maintenance of the acquired skills. Two weekly training sessions were conducted, lasting 45 minutes.

Unplugged Activity

Software Authoring

JClic

Percentages of correct trials in baseline, training and follow-up

Materials

The Personal Computer was used, on which the open source JClic software was installed, conceptual maps were created to be followed to create multimedia exercises to be used in educational activities.

Setting

The study conducted took place in a structured setting at the computer laboratory.

Conceptual Maps
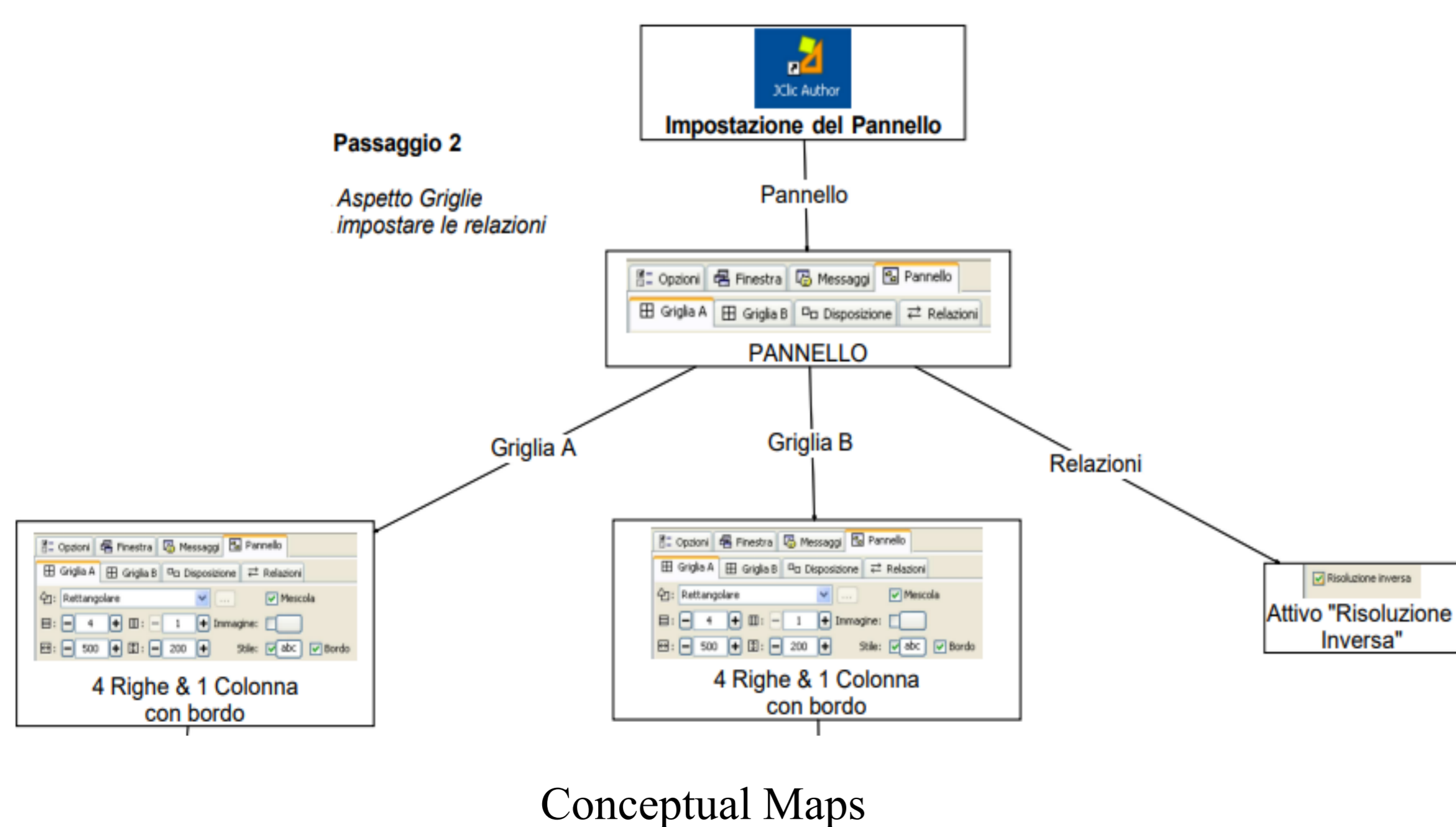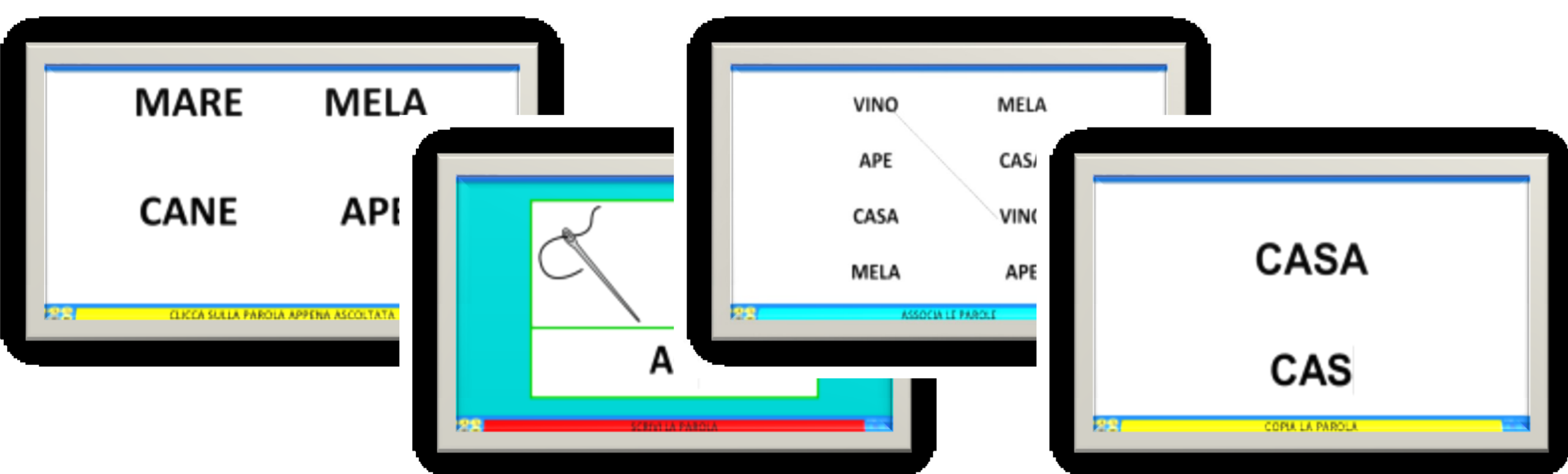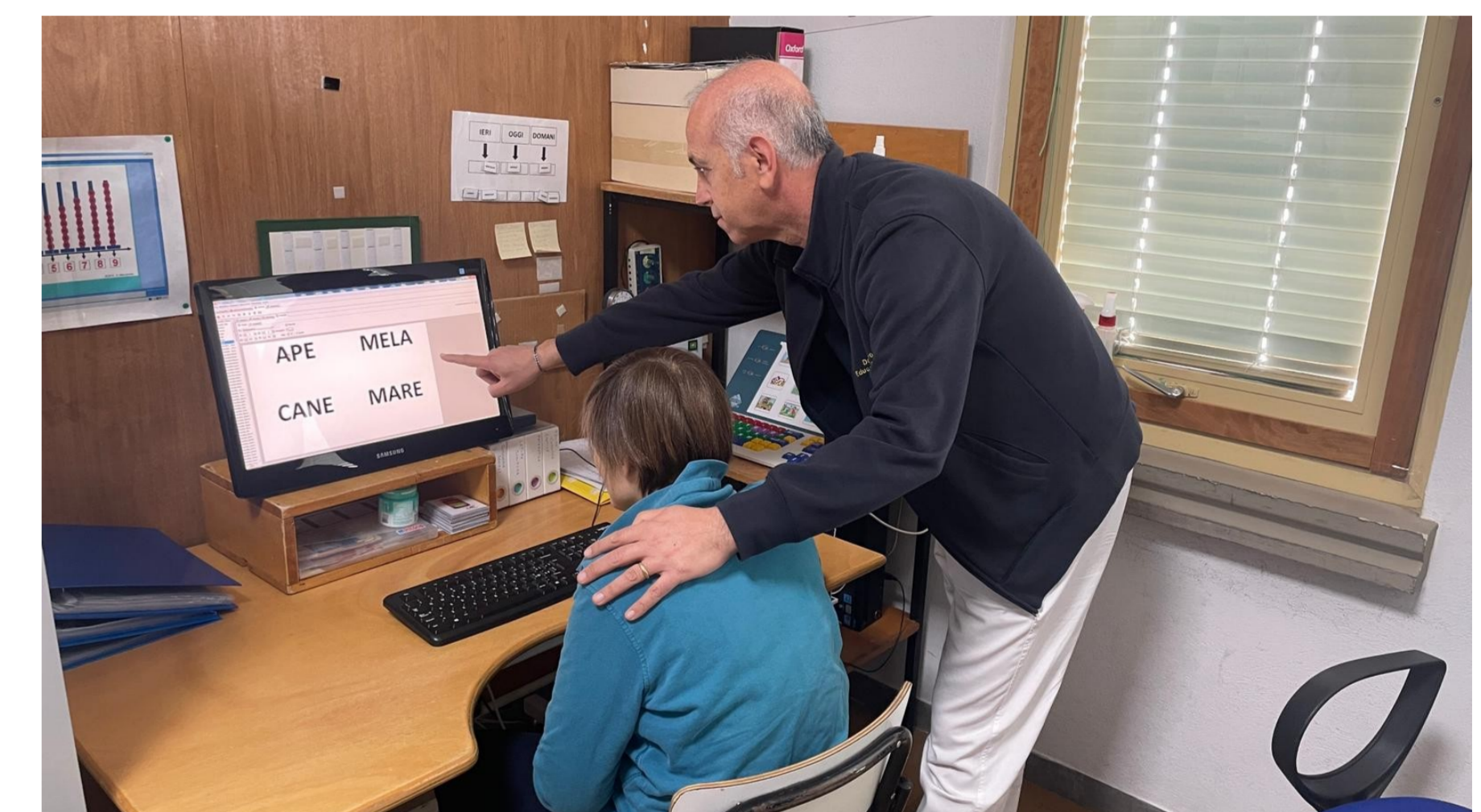
Results

The results show that the PWS subject acquired the programmed skills and was able to complete the procedure independently.

Conclusions

The learning of these skills could be encouraged as part of occupational autonomy paths and of the broader life project of people with PWS.