

ABA AT HOME

An Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis in
a Home Based Setting for Connecting for Kids.



The
Silver Lining
Group

Disclaimer

- Before we begin, it is important to note that the topic of Applied Behavior Analysis is a broad subject that cannot thoroughly be taught in a brief presentation.
- Our intent is to discuss some basic concepts and interventions within that broad subject matter that will hopefully provide the audience with additional information during this time of need.
- All attendees are encouraged to seek out Behavior Analysts or organizations that can conduct thorough assessments and provide individualized treatment options for those who may benefit.

Several Key ABA Topics

- Three-Term Contingency (A-> B <- C) - Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
- Reinforcement (Motivation)
- Functions of behavior (Why?) ****FOCUS OF TODAY'S PROGRAM****
- Antecedent Interventions (Manipulations made before problem behavior)
- Consequence Interventions (What to do after problem behavior begins)

Functions of Behavior

- Behavior is anything that a person (organism) does.
 - Much of the time we are concerned with observable and measurable behavior when working within the framework of Applied Behavior Analysis.
- When looking from the Behavior Analytic perspective, no behavior exists that does not have a purpose.
 - There may be varying levels of importance, but few, if any, happen for no reason at all.
- When we talk about the function of a behavior, we are talking about the purpose of the behavior.

Functions of Behavior

- For this training we are going to break down behavior into 4 categories of function.
 - Access (Access to tangible reinforcement)
 - Attention (Access to socially mediated reinforcement)
 - Escape (Escape or avoidance as reinforcement)
 - Automatic (Reinforcement appears to be internally provided)

Functions of Behavior

- **Access**
 - Think wanting something.
 - Example: a child crying because they wanted more time with their video game.
- **Attention**
 - Think social interactions, pleasant and even not so pleasant.
 - Example: a child repeatedly saying your name and asking you to look at them.
- **Escape/Avoidant**
 - Think removal of demand or expectation.
 - Example: a child closing their mouth tightly to avoid broccoli.
- **Automatic**
 - Think something internal
 - Common examples for children with autism include verbal and motor stereotypy (stimming) or ritualistic and or repetitive behaviors with no obvious purpose to others.
 - Common examples you may see on a regular basis include humming, shaking leg, scratching an itch.

How Can This Help Me at Home Now?

- Correctly identifying the function of a behavior can help determine how you should respond to it.
 - This is important because some interventions can apply to multiple functions, but sometimes an intervention that addresses one behavior and its function appropriately, can be the exact wrong intervention for another behavior and its function.

Considerations Before Proceeding

- Rule out other possibilities before jumping to conclusions.
 - Is there a medical reason outside of the diagnosis of a developmental disability that may be causing this behavior.