



Parent Advisory Council Trainings

Provided by RCS

A Comprehensive Language and Learning Assessment for Early Learners: ABLLS-R

The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS) is a commonly used tool to evaluate early learners' current skill set and develop appropriate objectives. We will review how to utilize the assessment tool and how to derive objectives based on results of the assessment. A description of the assessment components will be covered, along with how to visually represent results and create objectives based on the results.

ABA 101: A Brief Intro to Applied Behavior Analysis

Utilizing the basic principles of behavior (e.g. reinforcement, stimulus control, extinction), we are able to change our behaviors and behaviors of the individuals with whom we work. We will be discussing the basic principles in depth, as well as the characteristics of applied behavior analysis. Participants will learn the behavioral effects of the basic principles and will review several commonly employed behavior change procedures. Basic ways to evaluate and measure behavior will be reviewed as well.

Advanced ABA: Beyond the Basics

Behaviors are often complex in nature and may require more involved behavior change procedures. This training focuses on such procedures and their application within the home and classroom settings. Topics reviewed include: token systems, social stories and video modeling, discrete trial training, incidental teaching, shaping, identifying behavior by its function, developing behavior plans, and generalization and maintenance of behavior change.

What is Autism?

Autism is truly a spectrum and as such, no one characteristic automatically includes or excludes an individual from an autism diagnosis. This training will provide an overview of the signs and symptoms of autism as well as various effective strategies. Topics such as visual supports, social stories, consistency, modification of learning materials, communication, and successful transitions will be discussed.

Turning Maladaptive Behaviors into Adaptive Behaviors

Implementation of effective proactive strategies is one of the most important first steps to managing problem behavior. This training will review some of the most effective strategies that can be put in place in order to prevent problem behaviors and increase replacement behaviors. Variables such as environmental set-up will be discussed as well. Various assessment tools will be explored and participants will also be provided with various data sheets to be able to track progress in the classroom, home and community. A brief review of functional behavior assessments will be provided as well.

What is the Function?: An Overview of Functional Behavior Assessments

Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) may encompass a variety of assessment methods and tools. Throughout this training, participants will learn to identify what an FBA is and the basic steps that are followed to complete this assessment. They will learn how to identify, define, and assess problem behavior as well as determine the possible functions of behavior. Various ways of tracking behavior will be explored and participants will learn ways to analyze their data and information in order to create the most effective behavior plans to target behaviors.

How Individualized is your Plan?: Developing and Writing the IEP

A student's Individualized Education Program is a critical component to help ensure that students receive the services and support that are appropriate for his/her needs. This training addresses how to develop comprehensive IEP's for students with special needs. Participants will learn how to develop measurable IEP goals and objectives as well as methods to assess and report on student progress. Additionally, participants will learn how to modify curriculum to address individual student's needs.

Capturing the Teachable Moments: An Overview of Incidental Teaching

Participants will learn the importance of incidental teaching at home and in school as well as how to capitalize on natural opportunities throughout the day to target a variety of skills. Participants will also learn various strategies on how to "create" natural opportunities to target language, play, social skills etc. throughout the day.

Being an Active Member of the Classroom: Inclusion Planning and Facilitation

Participants will learn the philosophy of inclusion and inclusive classrooms. Essential components necessary to make inclusion successful will also be addressed, such as inclusion plans. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss potential benefits for all students and teachers as well as challenges associated with creating successful inclusion classrooms and environments.

Social Skills Everyday: How to Target Social Skills Across Settings

Social skills development is critical to everyday tasks and activities. This training provides instruction on how to build a social skills program within a school setting and reviews ways to create effective objectives for individual students. Various ways of assessing social skills as well as a review of social skills curriculum targeting basic to advanced skills will be addressed. Teaching methodologies and strategies such as breaking down simple steps using visuals, using video modeling, peer play and natural occurring opportunities.

Let's Communicate!: Teaching Communication from a Verbal Behavior Approach

Utilizing a function-based approach to communication allows individuals to most efficiently develop communication skills, regardless of communication mode (e.g. vocal language, sign language, PECS, assistive tech devices). This training will review the main ways in which we communicate (e.g. requests, labeling, conversations) and how these components are developed. Ways to assess and develop an overarching communication program will be reviewed, as well as important teaching strategies and procedures.

Taking the Stress out of Toilet Training

Toilet training, like everything else, happens in different ways for different children. Strategies that work well for one child, may not work well for another. This training will focus on a variety of techniques and effective strategies for toilet training. Participants will learn the value of reinforcing target responses, consistent schedules of reinforcement, and the use of visual schedules to aid in the toilet training process. Sample data sheets and visuals will be provided.

How to Get from Point A to Point B: Teaching Transitions

Throughout the day, we undergo numerous transitions between locations and tasks/activities. Transitions can be especially challenging when they are unexpected or involve transitioning from something that is highly preferred to something less preferred. This training will focus on how to create successful transitions with students of varying abilities and diagnoses, by utilizing a number of effective strategies. Transitions within various environments including school, home, and community will be discussed.

Assessment and Curriculum Planning using the VB-MAPP

Based on B.F. Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior, the VB-MAPP is a criterion-referenced assessment tool, curriculum guide, and skill tracking system that is designed for children with autism, and other individuals who demonstrate language delays. A brief overview of the history of the VB MAPP along with its' overall utility, will be reviewed. The five components of the VB-MAPP will be discussed and participants will learn how to use assessment data to recognize barriers that learners may encounter, to determine if a child is ready for a less restrictive environment, to use the placement recommendations to help balance out an intervention program, and to use the assessment as a curriculum guide.