Functional Behavior Assessment

ABA Training Part II

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When is a functional behavior assessment (FBA) needed?

- When the student is exhibiting behaviors that interfere with learning
- When a student is exhibiting behaviors that create safety concerns
- An FBA is NOT needed for challenging behaviors that do not interfere with learning or create safety issues

Why do an FBA?

- To decrease self injurious behaviors
- To increase engagement/learning
- To decrease behavior which interfere with engagement/learning
- To increase appropriate behaviors
- **It is evidence based

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What does an FBA accomplish?

- Information is gathered about when, where, and why an interfering behavior is occurring
- It helps to develop a hypothesis of why/the reason or function for the behavior
- Reinforcers / motivators are identified
- Behavioral supports/strategies for increasing appropriate behaviors and decreasing inappropriate behaviors are identified

Interfering Behavior is Defined

- The behavior should be defined in a clear, concise and objective manner
- Anyone should be able to read the definition of the behavior and know exactly what it looks like
- Example of not clearly defined:
 - Child tantrums
- Example of clearly defined:
 - Child drops to floor, bangs fists, screams

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Data is Taken

There are different types of data

- Continuous Data Collection: measures every occurrence of behavior
 - Frequency data: simple count/number of times the behavior occurs



• Duration data: this measures how long a behavior lasts; must be sure to define what starts and ends the behavior

servati	on Day 1:		Total Observation Time:		
Class/ ctivity	Behavior Begin Time	Sehevior End Time	Total Time/ Duration	Comment	
_					
_			 		
_					
		7			
	1				
Total A	Amount of Time occurred:	Behavior		Dayright 6:	

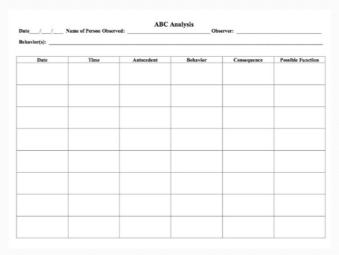
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• Rate data: measures the frequency of behavior that occurs over a period of time

Student Name: Observer(s):				Date:		
frequer collects	icy of each	behavior exhibited same amount of time	during the relevant time each day. Calculate the	x below. Each day, use period. Only use this for frequency or rate (frequently)	rm if data is being	
Bel	havior 1					
Bel	havior 2					
		Target Student		Comparison Peer		
From	То	Behavior 1	Behavior 2	Behavior 1	Behavior 2	
7:00	7:30					
7:30	8:00					
8:00	8:30					
8:30	9:00					
9:00	9:30					
9:30	10:00					
10:00	10:30					
10:30	11:00					
11:00	11:30					
11:30	12:00					
12:00	12:30					
12:30	1:00					
1:00	1:30					
1:30	2:00					
2:00	2:30					
2:30	3:00					
3:00	3:30					
3:30	4:00					
4:00	4:30					
4:30	5:00					
FREQU	JENCY					
RA	TE					

- Discontinuous Data Collection: measures a sample of behavior that occurs
 - Partial interval: breaks the data collection session into equal parts and note if behavior occurred during the interval
 - Whole interval: take the entire interval of time you were to collect data and note if behavior occurred during the entire interval of time
 - Time Sampling: break data collection session into intervals and only note if behavior is occurring when interval ends (so no note of behavior if it occurs during the interval)

- Other Types of Data Collection
 - A-B-C chart: this will help in understanding the relationship between the antecedent-behavior-consequences



 Scatterplot: this can be used to understand when/where behavior is occurring, the possible function, patterns, and to determine when/where an intervention might be used

ACTIVITY SATTERFACT ONTA SHEET

Service

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Data is Analyzed

- Ask the following questions:
 - Where is behavior occurring and not occurring
 - When is behavior occurring and not occurring
 - What activities is behavior occurring during
 - What are others doing when the behavior is occurring
 - What is the proximity to others during behavior
 - What does the environment look, sound, feel like? Lighting/noise level/ temperature
 - Is student being asked to do something which is difficult/repetitive
 - What is student doing right before and after the behavior
 - What happens immediately following the behavior

Take a Look at the Function

- From the data, determine what the reason behind the behavior is/ the function/ the why?
- There are 2 main categories of function:
 - To get or obtain something
 - I want that right now. Where did you go? Why are you playing attention to her and not me? I am bored. I don't know what to do right now. I want to do this right now because it makes me feel good (sensory/ self stimulation)
 - · To escape or avoid something
 - I don't like it here. I don't want to do what you are asking. This is too hard. This is too easy. I'm scared. I'm tired. I'm hot. I'm cold.
 - Note: Some may place sensory into a third category, but it is usually to obtain or avoid a situation/demand/environmental factor, physical factor

- Felicity video
 - Behavior Escape Follow Through

Develop a Hypothesis Statement

- This includes: the setting events, immediate antecedents, immediate consequences, the restatement of the description of the interfering behavior, and the function the behavior is serving
- Example: When asked to work in a small group setting in the classroom, Alice screams and says, "NO", because she doesn't like waiting, and then she is allowed to sit at her desk and complete the work with help from an assistant as needed

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Decide on the Replacement Behavior (s)

- This is the socially appropriate behavior you want to use to replace the inappropriate behavior
- It must be functionally equivalent to the challenging behavior
- It must be just as easy if not easier to use
- It must receive just as much or more of a payoff than the inappropriate behavior
- Story time....

Identify the Strategies Which will be Used to Address this Behavior

- Examples of strategies:
 - Redirection, differential reinforcement, extinction, antecedent based interventions, social narratives, self regulation skill development, functional communication

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Develop the Behavior Plan

- Must include:
 - · The definition of the interfering behavior
 - The strategy(s) that will be used to decrease the negative behavior (modify the antecedents-setting events and triggering events), include prompting/visual cues
 - The strategy (s) that will be used to increase the positive/desired behavior (what is the replacement behavior, what strategies are we using to teach this, does the replacement behavior serve same function), include prompting/visual cues
 - Objectives which are observable and measureable to monitor effectiveness of the intervention strategies
 - Materials needed
 - Environmental Accommodations
 - Responses from others/Consequences
 - Use of motivation/reinforcement
 - Data collection plan and plan for monitoring and making adjustments

In summary

• If a challenging behavior interferes with a student's ability to learn or if the intensity, duration, or type of challenging behavior impacts a student's development or causes a concern for safety for the student or others then an FBA is needed.

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