

Behavior Analysis as a Crisis Prevention/Intervention Technique in the Developmentally Disabled Population

Danielle Defler
Valerie Williamson

Aspire of Illinois
410 Lift Dr.
Hillside, IL 60162

708-547-3560

ddeller@aspireofillinois.org
vwilliamson@aspireofillinois.org

Applied Behavior Analysis is an effective tool in the prevention and the intervention of maladaptive behaviors in the Developmentally Disabled population. It is important to understand the basic function of a particular behavior by analyzing the antecedent-behavior-consequence model, as well as the building blocks of behavior modification reinforcement and extinction. When working with persons with Developmental Disabilities, it is often difficult to implement these procedures correctly if the function of the behavior is unknown. In these cases, it frequently proves beneficial to complete a functional assessment to determine the behavior's function. This extensive process includes a baseline period where data of maladaptive behavior is collected and analyzed, an interview process with clients and the staff who work closely with them, an observation of the client in the setting where the behavior usually occurs and a preference assessment to determine reinforcer effectiveness.

When it is affirmed that the maladaptive behavior(s) is (are) interfering with the client's everyday routine, an Individual Behavior Development Program is developed to assist service providers in the prevention and in the intervention of these behaviors. An Individual Behavior Development Program also serves to establish appropriate replacement behaviors as well as adaptive skills the client can add to his or her repertoire. In addition, there are numerous intervention strategies one can employ. These include; redirection and distraction techniques, and cues toward reinforcement opportunities.

During the presentation, participants will be lead through the extensive process of behavior analysis in its application to behavior program development. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, participants will be provided with handouts with space provided for note taking. There will also be an interactive learning activity using reinforcement and extinction principles. The techniques of behavior analysis can be an applicable to persons with varying cognitive abilities and can be an effective resource for professionals and nonprofessionals alike. Participants will gain an additional crisis intervention method that is useful subtly in their everyday life or systematically in their profession to enhance the lives of those around them.

To return to the Table of Contents for Convening XXXI, press the back button on your browser.