

ABA: What it is



Gerald T. Guild, Ph.D.
Behavior Specialist
Licensed Psychologist
Preschool Learning Center
League for the Handicapped, Inc.



Applied Behavior Analysis

- Focuses on objectively defined observable behavior
- Of social significance
- It seeks to improve behavior
- While demonstrating a reliable relationship between
 - Employed procedures
 - Behavioral improvement



Scientific Method

- Description – behavioral definition of observable behavior – in measurable terms
- Quantification – countable - measurable
- Analysis – variable control and intervention
 - while monitoring progress
 - Assessing relationship among variables



Applied

- Behavior must have immediate importance to the
 - Child
 - Family
 - classroom



Behavior

- Application of the well established behavioral principles of learning and behavior modification
- Focus on changes in observable behavior not on changes in cognitive activities



Analysis

■ Scientific Process

- Define variables and the nature of the relationship among variables (FBA)
- Application of behavioral principles in a scientific manner
- Data collection
- Data based decision making



Definition

- Applied behavior analysis is the *science* in which procedures derived from the *principles of behavior* are *systematically* applied to improve socially significant behavior to a meaningful degree and to demonstrate *experimentally* that the procedures employed were responsible for the improvement in behavior.



ABA can be broadly applied

- Behavioral consultation/modification
 - At home
 - In the classroom
 - To address:
 - Temper tantrums eating behavior
 - Self injurious behavior social skills
 - Play skills attending
 - Toileting skills compliance



ABA can be broadly applied

- Educational Instruction
 - Intensive Teaching
 - Manding
 - Tacting
 - Social Skill Instruction
 - Play Skill Instruction



ABA is not DTT but DTT can be ABA

- Discrete trial training (DTT) is a systematic application of behavioral principles to build measurable and socially meaningful skills in a data based decision making format.



ABA - What it is!

- So much more than DTT
- It's helping you enhance communication
- It's helping you decrease SIB at home
- It's helping you sit down to a meal with your child
- It's helping you get your child to sleep through the night



ABA

- DTT alone will not adequately address most parents' concerns
- We apply ABA along with language based instruction
- In a collaborative TEAM based approach
- That is Individualistic