

# Autism Initiative: Training Series

## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Chapter 2.2: Part 1 – Enhancing Staff Communication using Functional Behavioral Assessments

#### Part 1: Review of Concepts

- *Functional behavioral assessment (FBA)* refers to the systematic process used to obtain information about the variables affecting the occurrence of a behavior and the purpose (function) it serves for an individual. The results of an FBA are often used in the development of interventions and goal planning.
- Six general steps are involved in conducting an FBA. They include:
  1. Collecting information regarding conditions under which the problem behavior is and is not observed
  2. Developing testable hypotheses about the function of the behavior
  3. Direct observations of the behavior
  4. Designing a behavior support plan based on the information gathered
  5. Developing implementation scripts
  6. Collecting information on the outcome of the plan and re-evaluating

#### Part 2: Discussion Questions for Staff

1. *Why is it important to define behavior during assessments and progress monitoring?*
  - **Answer:** Among others, defining behavior:
    - Takes communication from the subjective to objective
    - Improves consistency in data collection
    - Allows for an increased ability to track progress over time
    - Eases communication about behavior across staff members
2. *Why is it important to identify the function of a behavior before developing an intervention?*
  - **Answer:** There is not a “correct” answer to this question. Encourage staff discussion about their thoughts.

#### Part 3: Individual/Small Group Activity

*Think of a behavioral excess of someone you may know (but do not identify that person) and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.*

- *What is the behavioral excess?*
- *Can you identify situations where the behavior is most likely to occur?*
- *Can you identify situations where the behavior is least likely to occur?*
- *What do you think could be maintaining the behavior?*

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- *What do you hypothesize the function of the behavior may be?*
- *Based on your hypotheses what do you think an appropriate intervention for the behavior would be?*