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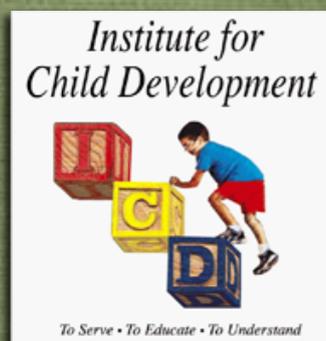


# Autism Initiative Training Series

## Module 2: Chapter 2.2

### Enhancing Staff Communication Using Functional Behavioral Assessment

<http://bddso.icd.binghamton.edu>



# Learning Objectives

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- Identify 4 reasons why it is important to define behavior.
- Name at least 2 considerations that should be made during the transition period.
- Define functional behavioral assessment (FBA).
- List the 3 components of an FBA.
- Name 3 critical considerations for using FBA.

# Why Define Behavior?

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- Takes communication from subjective to objective
- Consistency in collecting data
- Increased ability to track progress over time
- Ease of communication across staff members

# Behavior Changes & Adjustment to New Home

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- Relationships
  - Leaving home for the first time
  - Building new relationships with staff and other individuals
- Changes in personal and household routine
- Independence and autonomy
- Transition plans

● (Danya International, Inc. & OAR, 2006)

# Using Behavior to Communicate

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- Defining the behavior
- Assessing the situation
- Collecting data on the behavior
- Looking for patterns
- Making educated guesses about causes or settings that might change patterns

# Functional Behavioral Assessment

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- FBA
  - An assessment process, supported by research, that is used to identify the purpose of challenging behavior.
  - Helps to increase intervention effectiveness (Gartin & Murdick, 2001; Carr, Langdon, & Yarbrough, 1999).
  - Reflects best practices in service delivery for individuals with autism.

# Why FBA?

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- Federal law and policy (IDEA, 2004)
- Involves clear experimental approach to understanding behavior
- Consists of various tools including indirect and direct assessment
- Can be used easily and affordably in residential settings

# Steps in FBA

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- Collect information on conditions when problem behavior is & is not observed or more appropriate behavior is required.
- Develop testable hypotheses.
- Collect direct observation information.
- Design behavior support plans.
- Develop implementation scripts.
- Collect information on plan outcome & re-evaluate if necessary (BDDSO-ICD FBA Report, 2009)

# Types of Information Provided by FBA

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- NOT a single assessment (Gresham et al., 2001)
- Indirect assessment information
- Direct assessment information
- Systematic manipulation information

## When Is It Appropriate to Use FBA?

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- Challenging Behaviors
  - New behaviors not previously seen
  - Behaviors that are already being addressed in a behavior plan
  - Rapid changes in existing behavior patterns
- *Can be used whenever an appropriate intervention needs to be determined for challenging behavior.*

# Important Considerations When Using FBA

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- Safety
- Current Interventions
- Influence of other individuals