



A Key to a Quality of Life: Effective Communication

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Effective Communication: Overview & Issues

20 Minutes





Communication

- "Any act by which one person gives to or receives from another person information about that person's needs, desires, perceptions, knowledge, or affective states. Communication may be intentional or unintentional, may involve conventional or unconventional signals, may take linguistic or nonlinguistic forms, and may occur through spoken or other modes."

(National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities, 1992, p. 2)





Speech-Language Issues In ASD

- Non-communicative (lack of intentionality)
- 20-30 % may fail to develop functional speech
- Deficits in language comprehension





Speech-Language Issues In ASD

- Deficits in comprehension and use of gestures
- Deficits in the comprehension and use of prosody





Speech Language Issues in ASD

- Impoverished lexical representation
- Atypical lexical organization
- Deficits in abstract language



ASD



- Understanding the unique learning characteristics of individuals with ASD can greatly enhance your ability to provide effective services
- The unique learning characteristics directly impact on communication skills, behaviors, and independence



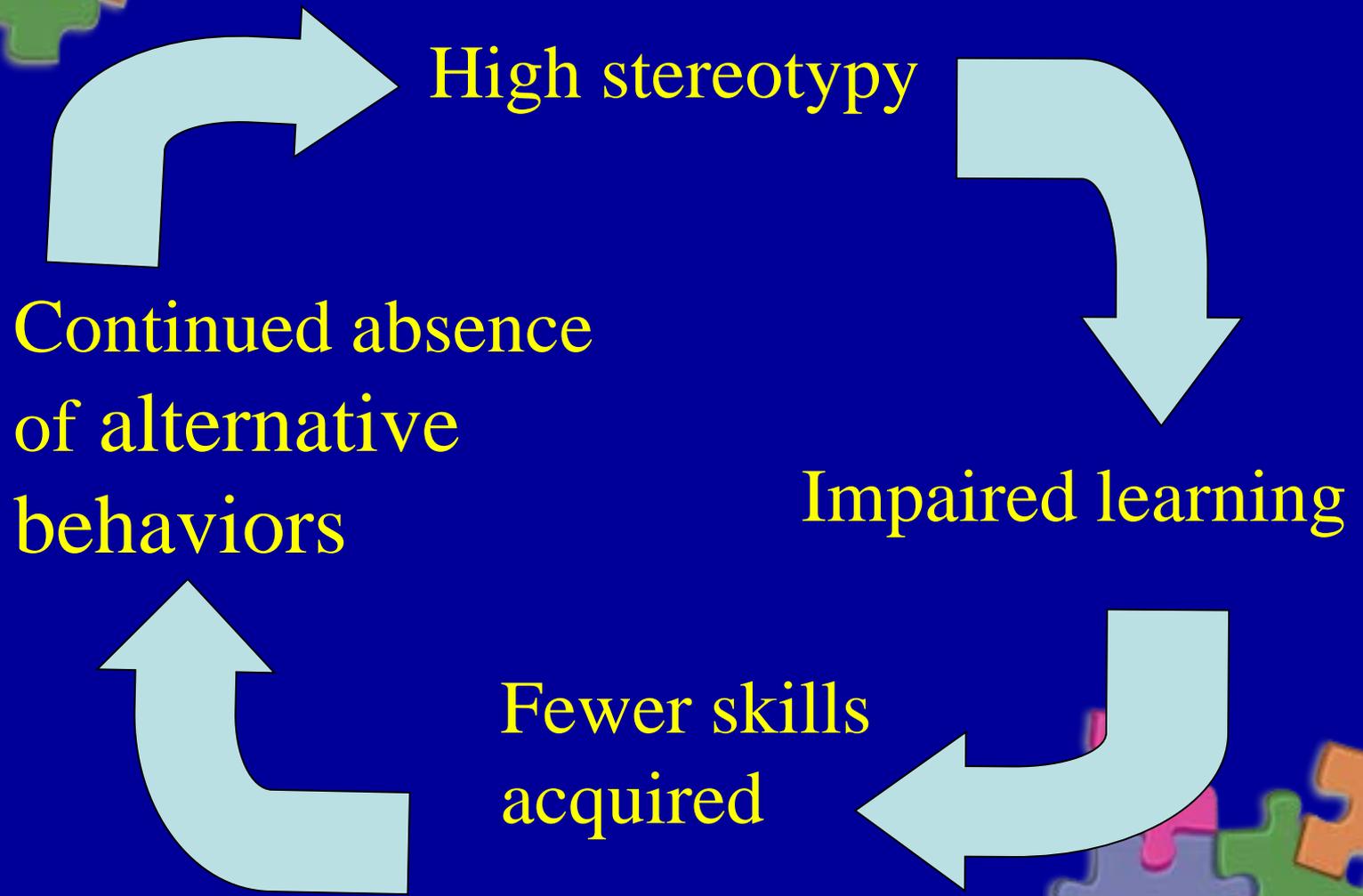


Basic Assumptions About Autism

- Stimulus Overselectivity
 - There is a large body of research that suggests children with autism may respond to an overly restrictive portion of complex stimuli
(e.g., Lovaas, Koegel, & Schreibman, 1979; Koegel, Koegel, Freg, & Smith, 1995)



Self-Stimulatory Behavior





Autism

- Process Environment Differently
 - Difficulty processing transient input
(Schuler, 1995)
 - Difficulty processing multiple cues
(Lovaas, Schreibman, Koegel, & Rehm, 1971)
 - Reduced awareness of theory of mind
(Baron-Cohen, Leslie, & Frith, 1985)





Autism

- Reduced Observational Learning
 - Children with autism typically have a great deal of difficulty with imitation
 - Children with autism have great difficulty “picking things up” from the environment





Autism

- Disorder versus Delay
 - Scattered profile
 - Splinter skills

