

DDRC Behavioral Support Services

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the process of systematically applying interventions based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree, and to demonstrate that the interventions employed are responsible for the improvement in behavior (Baer, Wolf & Risley, 1968; Sulzer-Azaroff & Mayer, 1991).

Over the past 30 years, several thousand published research studies have documented the effectiveness of ABA across a wide range of populations (children and adults with mental illness, developmental disabilities and learning disorders), interventionists (parents, teachers and staff), settings (schools, homes, institutions, group homes, hospitals and business offices), and behaviors (language; social, academic, leisure and functional life skills; aggression, self-injury, oppositional and stereotyped behaviors) (taken from the C.A.R.D website)

What does BCBA stand for?

Board Certified Behavior Analyst. See www.bacb.com for more information.

Does the Behavior Analyst make diagnoses regarding mental health concerns?

No. The behavior analyst determines the *function* of the challenging behavior(s). For example, the function answers the question “what purpose does the challenging behavior serve for the individual?”. There are common functions that are well studied in the behavior analytic literature and a functional assessment determines the function of the challenging behavior. However, because the behavior analysts at DDRC are well versed in mental health symptoms co-occurring with developmental disabilities, recommendations for further assessment to the appropriate professional will be made.

What if the Behavior Analyst never observes the behavior? Can treatment recommendations still be provided?

Yes. If the target behavior never occurs during an observation recommendations can still be provided based on the information obtained during the intake assessment and via record review (e.g., incident reports, behavior data taken from school, etc). However, we always strive to observe the behavior directly.

Who is paying for this service? Why is this a free service?

Behavioral support services are provided to clients who are living in Jefferson County. Services are also provided to clients who do not reside in Jefferson County but have parents or guardians who do. This is because the Behavior Health Team is funded by Jefferson County Mill Levy dollars.

Where can I learn more about Applied Behavior Analysis?

www.abainternational.org

www.behavior.org

www.bacb.com