Lunch and Learn with VCU-ACE
Alicia Hart & Stefanie Paul
The Basics of Applied Behavior Analysis

Housekeeping

- For educational and quality control, we will be recording this zoom session.
- By participating, you are consenting to being recorded.
- Before this session is shared, we will edit to remove identifying information to protect your privacy.
- The Q&A section will be removed and only be shared as an anonymous transcript.
Welcome to the Three-Part Series!

Alicia Hart  Stefanie Paul

Today’s Objectives

• Define and describe applied behavior analysis
• Discuss where and with whom is applied behavior analysis used
• Explain a few basic principles of applied behavior analysis
• Provide examples of teaching strategies associated with applied behavior analysis
• Address possible misconceptions regarding applied behavior analysis
• Questions and answer opportunities
What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

• Science devoted to understanding and improvement of human behavior

• Discover **environmental variables** that influence **socially significant behavior** in order to implement behavior change

Applied

Behaviors important to the individual!

Scope of possible behaviors:
• Teaching social skills
• Teaching communication skills
• Teaching adaptive/living skills- toilet training, caring for oneself
• Teaching routines to increase independence
• Generalizing skills
Behavior

- Anything a person does
- Measurable and observable
- Positive and not just interfering or negative - (i.e. greetings)
- All behavior occurs within an environmental context
- 3 Different contexts of
  - behaviors maintained
  - behaviors that should be increased
  - behaviors that need to be decreased

Analysis

- Systematic process and delivery of interventions
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Objective
Where and by Whom is ABA used?

Where?
- Education
- Marketing
- Weight loss
- Gerontology
- Industrial safety

Who?
- Behavior analyst
- Parents
- Teachers
- Psychologists
- Behavior specialists

Basic Principles of ABA

- Environmental variables that impact behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-B-C</th>
<th>Antecedent</th>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What happens immediately before the behavior?</td>
<td>What behavior or response is being targeted? What does the student do?</td>
<td>What happens immediately after the behavior or response?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let’s Look at an Example!

Antecedent
Mom holds up cookie

Behavior
Child says, “Cah.”

Consequence
Mom gives child cookie

You May be Familiar with ...

Premack Principle
Task Analysis
Reinforcement

Behavioral Momentum
Prompting
Functional Communication Training
Possible Misperceptions

"Discrete Trial Training is ABA"
“Not generalizable”
“Clinical model only”
“Used to decrease behaviors only”
“Just who uses ABA?”

Resources

The Virginia Commonwealth Autism Center for Excellence-
https://vcuautismcenter.org/resources/factsheets/content.cfm/982

Autism Speaks-
https://www.autismspeaks.org/applied-behavior-analysis-aba-0

The National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice (NCAEP) is a continuation of the systematic review completed by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC). https://ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/
## Upcoming Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Registration Link: [https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm](https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm)
For questions or more information

Please visit:

www.vcuautismcenter.org

Or

e-mail: autismcenter@vcu.edu