



Module 1

Current Themes and Issues in Behavior Support

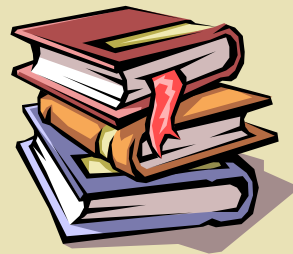
Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ Funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitative Research (1987-1997)
- ◆ Develop, evaluate, and disseminate practical assessment and intervention methods, based on the following criteria:
 - a. Effective with severe behavior problems
 - b. Procedures are nonaversive
 - c. Consistent with science of human behavior
 - d. Can be used by anyone in typical settings
- ◆ Training team network in 20 states, including educators, therapists, professional support providers, and family members



Members of the Research and Training Center on Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ University of Oregon
- ◆ University of South Florida
- ◆ State University of New York
- ◆ University of California – Santa Barbara
- ◆ Cal State University – Hayward
- ◆ University of Kansas



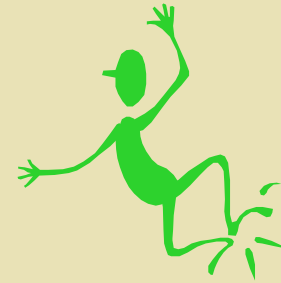
Features of the Team Training Model

- ◆ Training-of-trainers
- ◆ Multiple constituencies and agencies
- ◆ Case study format with a focus on individuals
- ◆ Content interspersed with supported application
- ◆ Comprehensive curriculum
- ◆ Development of networks and communities
- ◆ Ongoing support for participants
- ◆ Multiple levels of training



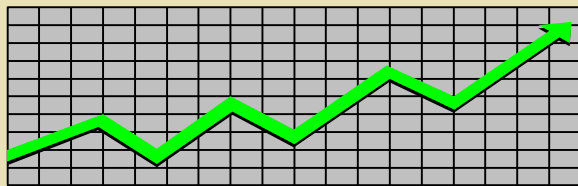
Positive Behavior Support

- **New ways of viewing challenging behavior**



- **Different strategies for affecting challenging behavior**

- **Expanding view of outcomes**





Characteristics of PBS

- ◆ functional assessment information & summary
- ◆ application of good, valid approaches that are effective
- ◆ fit the context of the child, family, school and class.



Characteristics of Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ Assessment-based: Interventions directly linked to environmental influences and a hypothesis concerning the function of the problem behavior.
- ◆ Comprehensive plans, usually involving multiple interventions
- ◆ Proactive, involving teaching alternative skills and adapting the environment.
- ◆ Emphasizes lifestyle enhancement and inclusive settings as both the context for and long-range goals of intervention.



Characteristics of Positive Behavior Support (cont.)

- ◆ Reflects person-centered values that honor the dignity and preferences of the individual.
- ◆ Designed for use in everyday settings using typically available resources.
- ◆ Broad view of intervention success that includes (a) increases in the use of alternative skills, (b) decreases in the incidence of problem behavior, and (c) improvements in quality of life.

Principles of Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ All people are part of the community
- ◆ All people have similar needs
- ◆ All people need support or assistance in meeting their needs
- ◆ Support involves more than just focusing on problem behaviors



Principles of Positive Behavior Support (cont.)

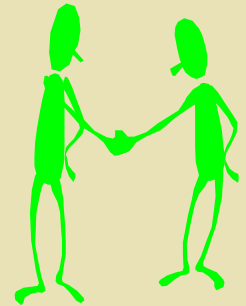
- ◆ Addressing broader lifestyle issues requires a committed team approach
- ◆ Involves the pursuit of socially-valued outcomes by socially-valued means
- ◆ Deals with people as individuals rather than labels, diagnoses, or conditions



Expanding Visions of Outcomes



- ◆ Improvements in problem behaviors
- ◆ Individuals learn new skills
- ◆ Decreased use of “crisis intervention”





Expanding Visions of Outcomes (cont.)

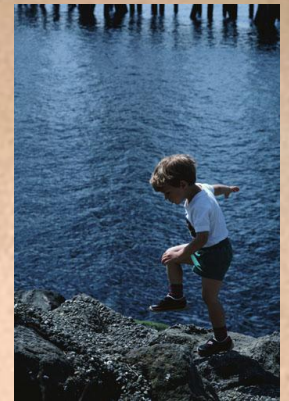
- ◆ Less need for specialized, restrictive programs
- ◆ Decreased risk for social rejection by peers, better peer support
- ◆ Improvements observed by individual, family, staff, community

Critical Themes in Positive Behavior Support



- ◆ Strong theoretical and empirical foundation
- ◆ Importance of social context
- ◆ Ongoing evolution of behavior technology
- ◆ Support provided within typical environments
- ◆ Respect for personal integrity and autonomy
- ◆ Value of families, friends, and support providers
- ◆ Educational approach to challenging behavior
- ◆ Positive lifestyle enhancement

Applied Behavior Analysis



The systematic application of procedures derived from the science of human behavior to promote socially significant changes in behavior and the demonstration of their efficacy through experimental analysis.

Current Dimensions of Applied Behavior Analysis

Baer, Wolf, and Risley, 1968/1987

- ◆ Applied
- ◆ Behavior
- ◆ Analytic
- ◆ Technological
- ◆ Conceptual
- ◆ Effective
- ◆ Generality



The Changing Face of Behavior Analysis

1970's

“Behavior Modification”

- ◆ Manipulation of discrete behaviors
- ◆ Schedules of reinforcement
- ◆ Contingency management
- ◆ Controlling the context
- ◆ Establishing laws of behavior



1980's

“Behavioral Intervention”

- ◆ Intervention within response classes
- ◆ Functional analysis
- ◆ Teaching replacement skills
- ◆ Ecological perspective
- ◆ Programming for generalization



1990's

“Behavior Support”

- ◆ Lifestyle focus
- ◆ Comprehensive supports
- ◆ Building independence and personal control
- ◆ Contextual relevance
- ◆ Community-based intervention



Contributions of Applied Behavior Analysis



- ◆ Direct benefit for people with disabilities
- ◆ Broader application of principles to social issues
- ◆ Expansion of assessment and intervention technology
- ◆ Continual reevaluation and refinement based on practical considerations

Current Issues within the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis

- ◆ Philosophical
- ◆ Technical
- ◆ Contextual



Characteristics of Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ Driven and evaluated from a lifestyle perspective
- ◆ Broad emphasis for individuals and systems
- ◆ Understanding the contexts and functions of behavior
- ◆ Proactive and longitudinal support
- ◆ Individualized and comprehensive support plans
 - contextual modifications
 - developing new competencies
 - effective consequences
- ◆ Systemic level support plans



Founding Values of Positive Behavior Support

- ◆ People are individuals
- ◆ People are members of families
- ◆ Social relationships reflect the quality of a person's life
- ◆ Self-determination is important to people
- ◆ People are members of society
- ◆ People influence their circumstances in ways that are personally meaningful
- ◆ People have the right to be treated with dignity and understanding



Factors in the Success of Positive Behavior Support



- ◆ Adequacy of support in addressing individual needs
- ◆ Integrity of support plan and implementation
- ◆ Availability of resources
- ◆ Extent to which the supports fit the natural context
- ◆ Adaptability of the physical and social environment
- ◆ Acceptability of goals and intervention to support providers
- ◆ Availability of accountability, monitoring and assistance mechanisms
- ◆ General milieu and structure of environments