

# CARE CONNECT MONTHLY

Applied Behavioral Analysis News & Updates

July 2022

## ABA Clinically Proven Principles

# REINFORCEMENT

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA) FOCUSES ON LEARNING TO LEARN BY USING CLINICALLY PROVEN PRINCIPLES AND TEACHING STRATEGIES. THESE TEACHING STRATEGIES FOCUS ON INCREASING SKILLS, SUCH AS PROSOCIAL BEHAVIORS, COPING TOOLS, DAILY LIVING SKILLS, AND COMMUNICATION.

ABA is not designed to “change” an individual, but is designed to bring about engagement through the use of positive, meaningful, and individualized supports.

Last month we talked about different types of reinforcers, such as your child’s favorite toys or activities. This month we will continue learning about how reinforcement can encourage your child through social interaction and praise. Playing is a large part of how a child learns! Engaging with them in play is a way to practice positive reinforcement while meeting them where they are. When it comes to playing with your child, let your child lead the play while you tune in and provide social attention.

### This can look like the following:

1. Observe your child’s play in close proximity.
2. Describe and label what your child is doing during play. This also helps with skill-building and language development.
3. Imitate your child’s play and demonstrate you are engaging in their world.
4. Reflect what your child says by repeating what they are saying. This provides immediate attention, shows that you are engaged and that you are listening.
5. Promote play skills development by encouraging any instance of requesting, sharing, taking turns, or creative play.
6. Praise your child’s positive behavior any chance you can by using simple descriptive statements. Minimize the number of commands you give during play and focus on enjoying a positive and pleasant playtime with your child.

Let your child be your guide as you play. Your presence in their play will encourage future play.



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### Meet Our Team



KEENAN WOLVERTON

Time at Burrell: 6 months

Role at Burrell: RBT Team Lead for Space Pod

Favorite Quote: "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."  
- Carl Sagan

Best Part of Your Job: Seeing our learners discover their own curiosity about their world.

### Monthly Try It

#### INCREASING SOCIAL REINFORCEMENT

This month, try engaging with your child's playtime. You can do this by playing with your child and asking some of the questions provided below.

## PLAYING *is still* LEARNING

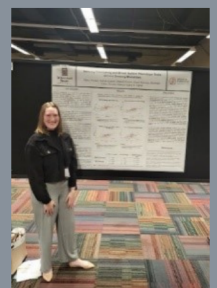


### General Open Ended Questions

- What would happen if...?
- I wonder...
- What do you think about...?
- In what way?
- Tell me about...
- What would you do?
- How can we...?
- How did you...?

### Did you know?

Mary, one of our Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT), recently presented her group research project at Missouri State University that focused on the relationship between sensory processing and traits associated with autism. All of the analyses they ran were statistically significant, suggesting that altered sensory processing is associated with the increase of the presence of traits associated with autism. Way to go, Mary!



### Upcoming Events & Reminders

#### Upcoming Holidays

Burrell offices will be closed  
Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day.

Do you have a sensory friendly activity/event you would like to share? If so, reach out to your learner's supervising BCBA!

#### Local Sensory Friendly News

Sequiota Park spans across 29 acres in Springfield, including three caves, rocks to climb, a large, shaded pavilion, many picnic tables, and two separate playgrounds. It connects to the Galloway Trail where you can ride bikes, jog, or hike up to five miles of paved paths beginning at Pershing Elementary School and ending at the old iron bridge over James River. For the history buffs, there is also a rich history of the area.



Photo Courtesy Springfield Greene County Parks