



# CARE CONNECT MONTHLY

Applied Behavioral Analysis News & Updates

October 2022

## ABA Clinically Proven Principles

# FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION TRAINING

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.

All behavior is communication. Our goal is to teach the child new communication is more “functional” (and even more reinforcing) than what they are currently utilizing. However, before we can begin to teach an alternative behavior, it is critical to first know why the child is engaging in the challenging behavior. We ask, “what are they trying to communicate?” when the behavior occurs. This can be determined by cuing into antecedents and consequences that are occurring with the behavior. If the child is screaming and pulling on mom when she is on the phone, for example, and then mom stops and gives the child attention, it could be determined that the purpose was to obtain attention. We can then target how the child could use a more functional way to gain that attention.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when replacing challenging behaviors with more functional behavior:

1. The replacement should work quickly for the child. This will help them learn that the “functional” way can be more effective than their previous way of communicating.
2. The replacement should work every time, across all situations, people, and settings.
3. The replacement should require less effort than the challenging behavior while still getting their same needs met.



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### Meet Our Team



REBECCA BAKEHOUSE

Time at Burrell: 1 year

Role at Burrell: Psychometrician and RBT

Favorite Quote: "We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."-Walt Disney

Best Part of Your Job: The best part of this job is being able to be a part of something that makes a real difference for a deserving child. The ability to literally change a child's life by empowering them to be able to harness their true capability is magical!

### Monthly Try It

#### FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION TRAINING ALTERNATIVES TO "USE YOUR WORDS"

Help children develop language to describe their feelings.

I can help you think of how to say that.

Is there a sound you can make to help us think of a word for what's inside of you right now?

Let's think of a word that matches what you're feeling.

You're frustrated I can see it. Let's figure out why.

Kids can't "use their words" until we teach them helpful words to use.

### Emotions & Feelings

Influence what you do and think



### Behavior & Actions

Influence how you think and feel



### Thoughts & Beliefs

Influence how you feel and act



## Upcoming Events & Reminders

### Upcoming Holidays

Burrell offices will be closed November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving, and December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

### Noteworthy

In July, as part of Autism Awareness month, a Burrell Autism Center family collaborated with Maso's Pizza to create a fundraiser that would benefit that Autism Center. Maso's donated a percentage of all sales throughout the month and hosted different events, such as a Bingo night. In total, \$6,706.75 was raised! This will provide tools, resources, and curriculum to students and staff at the Autism Center. Some of those resources included new toys and sensory-friendly items. We are so thankful for the community's support!



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