

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR

This session provides a primer for all educators and leaders to understand why students exhibit certain behavior and how to respond appropriately. All behavior has a function, though it can often be challenging to understand what purpose the behavior serves. If we ask the right questions, we can begin crafting a strengths-based approach to teaching students constructive replacement behaviors. Ultimately, this will minimize classroom disruption and enable more time to focus on instruction.

Course Description

This two-session course (runs between 3-5 hours) offers a comprehensive introduction to understanding why students exhibit behavior that interferes with learning and prepares educators to use common responses to behavior according to the function served. Participants will engage in collaborative learning to identify when the four functions occur, develop a baseline knowledge of why certain responses are preferred, and use a planning tool to design action steps to use with students who exhibit behaviors common in their classroom context.

Feedback from ABC Training Participants

"I felt like my needs and ideas were considered, and the [sessions] were adapted to meet not only my needs but also the needs of [our] team."

- Middle School Special Education
Teacher

"The facilitators are incredibly supportive and helpful. They explain everything clearly, add helpful anecdotes and ask really thoughtful questions. They are warm and kind and I really appreciate them!"

- General Education Teacher

Learning Outcomes

Throughout the course, participants will:

- Discuss equity concerns inherent in behavior management and response in schools
- Define the four functions of behavior and identify examples of how they show up in practice
- Understand key dos/don'ts in response to each function
- Develop knowledge and skills to avoid power struggles
- Apply knowledge of functions of behavior to plan for replacement behaviors

Course Breakdown

Session One (half day):

- Understanding Behavior
- Note about Equity
- The Four Functions
- Avoiding Power Struggles
- The Dos and Donts of Responding

Session Two (half day):

- Reflecting on Power Struggles
- Planning for Replacement Behaviors
- Antecedent Interventions
- Teaching Interventions
- Consequence Interventions