

RESPOND NOT REACT: UNDERSTANDING ROOT CAUSES OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

This course provides a primer for understanding why students exhibit specific behavior and how to respond appropriately. All behavior has a function, though understanding its purpose can often be challenging. If we ask the right questions, we can begin crafting a strengths-based approach to teaching students constructive replacement behaviors. Ultimately, these practices minimize classroom disruption and enable more time to focus on instruction. Educators and leaders will hone their behavior response skills in this engaging course.

Course Description

This course can be offered in a full or half-day format. It 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 specific responses are preferred and use a planning tool to design action steps for students who exhibit behaviors common in their classroom context.

Feedback from ABC Course 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

Part I (half day):

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

Part II (half day):

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