

Successful Collaboration in Language Intervention for Children with Autism: A Team Approach to SLP and ABA

Katrina Lublin, M.S., CCC/SLP Rochester, NY October 28, 2009



Participants will be able to:

- define and discuss roles of Speech Language Pathologists and Behavior Analysts.
- discuss similarities and differences between Speech Language Pathologists and Behavior Analysts.
- ask questions of each discipline as to how goals can be addressed collaboratively.



Old African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child"; exact origin unknown.



- Parent
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Special Educator
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Teaching Assistant
- Service Coordinator, Dietician



- We don't have to say "vs"
- Separate areas with their own range of interests
- Overlap and are similar in many ways
- Purpose today is to highlight similarities to promote collaboration for more effective treatment practices



- Speech Language Pathology is a field dedicated to enhancing communication abilities.
- Assess, diagnose, treat delays/disorders related to:
 - Language
 - Developmental or acquired
 - Expressive, receptive, pragmatic language abilities
 - Voice
 - Cognitive-Communication Disorders
 - Fluency (stuttering)
 - Speech sound production
 - Articulation
 - Apraxia/dyspraxia
 - Oral Motor
 - Augmentative communication needs
 - Dysphagia feeding and swallowing



- Presence of speech/langauge delay or disorder may be secondary to:
 - Developmental delay
 - Presence of disorder
 - Downs Syndrome
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Apraxia of Speech
 - Acquired
 - Stroke
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Parkinson's Disease



- Graduate degree
- State licensure
- CCC Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- required to complete 9 month Clinical Fellowship (CF) under the supervision of a licensed SLP with valid CCC (CCC/SLP)
- O SPECIALTY AREAS!
- o www.asha.org



- Applied Behavior Analysis
- A <u>systematic approach to teaching</u> involving the manipulation of antecedents (what comes before) and consequences (what comes after) of behavior to <u>teach</u> <u>new skills</u> and <u>eliminate maladaptive and</u> <u>excess behaviors</u>.

INSTRUCTION > RESPONSE > REINFORCEMENT



ABA is dedicated to enhancing a person's

- Language abilities
- Cognitive abilities
- Academic skills
- Social skills
- Play/leisure
- Independent living skills
- Executive Function
- Social Skills/Social Cognition
- Decrease problem behaviors
 - E.g. Spinning, hand flapping, aggression, scripting



- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Provides behavioral assessments and interprets the results; develops behavior treatment plans and supervises intervention
- Able to provide information regarding the function of a behavior:
 - attention
 - avoidance
 - access to something



A Board Certified Behavior Analyst would define behavior as <u>anything</u> a person does:

- Hitting
- Talking
- Scripting
- Hand flapping
- Babbling or jargoning
- Singing

The BCBA.... (cont'd)

o 3 levels:

- BCBA (masters degree required + course requirements + exam)
- BCaBA (bachelors degree required + course requirements + exam)
- BCBA-D (doctoral degree required + course requirements + exam)
- www.bacb.com

What do SLPs and ABA Professionals Have in Common?

- Support individuals with communication impairments
- Work to improve overall language abilities:
 - Receptive, expressive abilities
 - Vocabulary objects, actions, body parts, prepositions
 - Functional communication
- Address production and use of speech sounds in conjunction with language
- Recognize challenging behaviors as being communicative; focus on replacing those behaviors with positive and appropriate communication
- ** rely on data collection procedures in order to document and report goal progress
- Advocate for evidenced based practice
- Use of prompting, chaining, shaping procedures and reinforcement in treatment
- When teaching new skills, both start in a structured manner and progress to natural contexts



- Different professions with different backgrounds
- Different terminology
- Both focus on increasing function/use of language for interacting with others/environment
- Use of the term "behavior"
- BCBAs may be most often associated with "problem" behavior
- Community misconceptions

Basic Terminology Differences:

BCBA SLP

"Verbal Behavior" (Skinner)

Echoic Imitation (verbal)

Mands Requests/Demands

Tacts Labels/Commenting

Intraverbal Conversations/exchanges

Vocal/speech/oral speech

Verbal Speaking

Generalization Carry Over



Speech Language Pathologist assesses, diagnoses, treats delays/disorders related to:

- speech
- language
- voice
- cognitive communication abilities
- fluency
- feeding and swallowing

Their Roles: SLP (cont'd)

Knowledge and training is in development of speech and language and age expectations

- What happens at age level
 - Child is 4 years old and has difficulty producing the "th" sound, as in "thumb", or as in his therapist's name, "Heather"
- What happens at ability level
 - Child is 3 1/2 years old and talks in single words; estimated vocabulary of 100 words
 - Child is demonstrating emerging speech abilities at age 3 - consider developmental expectations



- Conduct behavior assessments and interpret the results
 - Behavior assessments are not only for problem behaviors!
- Develop behavior treatment plans
- Supervises intervention and implementation of treatment plans
- Recommends behavior approaches for specific behaviors

What can we get from each other?

SLP:

- Information on developmental norms and expectations
 - Speech sound development; acceptable substitutions
 - Language development and typical sequence
- Language sample analysis
 - Form of the language
 - Content of the language
 - Use of the language

EXAMPLES:

- Child has learned to use actions
- Child is at a point where he can learn prepositions



BCBA:

 Recommendations and interventions plans based on what is best for that child; an intervention plan would be different based on the function of the behavior

EXAMPLES:

- Aggression attention or avoidance
- Scripting attention or way of initiating a conversation

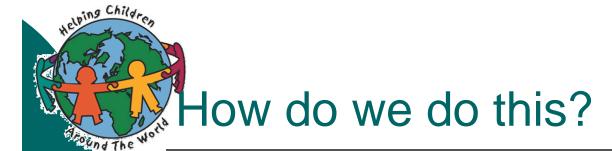


BCBA (cont'd)

- Provides information on Verbal Behavior
 - EXAMPLE: A 4 year old child is described as having "lots of language" or "her language is not delayed", BUT she doesn't use it. WHY NOT?

What this can look like in treatment:

 ArticulationVe 	erbal Imitation
at	ctions, pronouns, epositions, tributes, ocabulary/labels,
	ands, tacts, PECS
o Fluency	* * * *
o Voice	**** prosody of speech
Feeding/Swallowing	* * * *



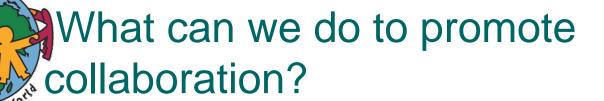
COMMUNICATION!

Benefits of Effective Collaboration

- Collaboration does not have to refer only to direct clinical practice
 - Research projects, conference participation, discussion groups, listservs
 - www.health.groups.yahoo.com/group/SLPABA
 - SLPs often have more direct clinical time with the clients than BCBAs; more opportunity for ongoing assessment of goal progress
 - More overall clinical time with a client between professionals addressing the same goals could result in more timely modification of treatment goals and needs when obstacles are identified



- BCBA and SLP training can complement each other. BCBAs - trained in scientific principles of learning and motivations; SLPs - trained in the development of speech and language
- With open communication that occurs on a regular basis, SLP and BCBA professionals would be able to discuss goals and needs that are specific to their discipline and determine how each area can be addressed across the entire program



- Communication
- Share information on treatment efficacy
 - The Journal of Speech Language Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis
 - The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis
 - Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in the Schools
 - The Analysis of Verbal Behavior



- Share basic information any information that seems to be frequently misunderstood, including terminology
- Share reports of successful collaboration, informally or within participation of a discussion group or listserv; share how a past collaborative effort was successful and make suggestions
- Read articles in journals associated with the other profession
- Websites: <u>www.behavioralspeech.com</u>; <u>www.asha.org</u>; <u>www.bacb.com</u>



QUESTIONS?