

Functional Behavior Assessment Fact Sheet

Brief Description

Functional behavior assessment (FBA) is a systematic way of determining the underlying communicative function or purpose of a behavior so that an effective intervention plan can be developed. FBA consists of describing the interfering or problem behavior, identifying antecedent and consequent events that control the behavior, developing a hypothesis of the function of the behavior, and testing the hypothesis. Data collection is an important part of the FBA process. FBA is typically used to identify the causes of interfering behaviors such as self-injury, aggression towards others, or destructive behaviors and is usually followed by the creation and implementation of a behavior package to address the interfering behavior described.

Qualifying Evidence

FBA meets evidence-based criteria with 10 single case design studies.

Ages

According to the evidence-based studies, this intervention has been effective for toddlers (0-2 years) to young adults (19-22 years) with ASD.

Outcomes

FBA can be used effectively to address communication, behavior, school-readiness, academic, and adaptive skills.

Research Studies Providing Evidence

- Blair, K. C., Lee, I., Cho, S., & Dunlap, G. (2011). Positive behavior support through family-school collaboration for young children with autism. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, 31*, 22-36. doi: 10.1177/0271121410377510
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- Roberts-Gwinn, M. M., Luiten, L., Derby, K. M., Johnson, T. A., & Weber, K. (2001). Identification of competing reinforcers for behavior maintained by automatic reinforcement. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 3(2), 83-87. doi: 10.1177/109830070100300204

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