

Learn To Be An ABA Therapist For Children With Autism Over the Internet

There is large and growing interest in the delivery of applied behavior analysis (ABA) for children with autism with a shortage of trained therapists to implement this type of intervention. Applied behavior analysis is a science-based intervention in which skills to be taught are broken into small steps. Skills are taught using learning procedures that have been shown to be effective in producing positive changes in the behavior and skills of children with autism.

Early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI) is the form of ABA that has been used extensively with young children with autism. It consists of the provision of between 20 and 40 hours of ABA a week, by a trained and supervised therapist, initially teaching a child on a one-to-one basis in a highly structured fashion. Over time, more naturalistic forms of ABA would be used to assist the child with autism in generalizing his or her skills to new situations. A number of research studies have indicated that EIBI can produce very large gains in the developmental trajectory of children with autism, with many children gaining to the point that they no longer need EIBI and are able to learn in general education settings without assistance.

Training to be an ABA therapist typically requires at least 10 days of a workshop held at a central learning site. Because it is often difficult for potential participants, especially those who are working or going to school to be freed up for such an extensive time and/or are located geographically far away from the training location, we now offer an introductory training of ABA therapists over the internet.

For Whom Is This Training Designed?

The training provides participants with an introduction on the implementation of ABA for children with autism. It would be of interest to those individuals planning to enter the field and are looking for the flexibility and convenience of learning over the web. It is expected that on completion of the training that participants would only implement ABA under the supervision of a behavior analyst (see http://www.abainternational.org/Special_Interests/AutGuidelines.pdf for a discussion of the qualifications of a behavior analyst) and will be asked to sign an agreement to that effect.

What Is The Training Content?

This training covers principles and procedures of ABA that have been used in the delivery of EIBI. The training will not only describe procedures and how they are used with children with autism, but also will present video models of how those procedures are put into practice. Training will be conducted over 10, three-hour sessions and divided into the following learning modules:

Module 1: What is Autism?

Module 2: What is EIBI?
Module 3: Arranging Physical Environment
Module 4: Arranging Antecedent Conditions
Module 5: Arranging Consequent Events
Module 6: Planning the Curriculum
Module 7: Data Collection
Module 8: Generalization and Maintenance
Module 9.1 Teaching Learning Readiness Skills
Module 9.2 Teaching Non-Verbal Imitation
Module 9.3 Teaching Verbal Imitation
Module 9.4 Visual-Visual Matching To Sample
Module 9.5 Teaching Receptive Discrimination
Module 10: Dealing with Problem Behavior
Module 11: Teaching Communication
Module 12: Augmentative Communication and The Picture Exchange Communication System
Module 13: Teaching Self-Help Skills
Module 14: Promoting Peer Interaction
Module 15: Transition to School
Module 16: Professional Issues

What is The Training Format?

Each participant will receive a 280-page manual that describes how EIBI is implemented and follows the content covered each week. Each week, participants join a seminar group using a provided web browser. Participants will be able to see and hear a live Power Point presentation, ask questions, complete exercises, and view videos among other components. Participants then are asked to read the corresponding section in the provided manual. The following week, a practice quiz is administered to review the material that was covered the previous week.

Participants will be given an exam selected from the quiz questions that they have previously seen. A certificate of participation is given to participants who: a) attended at least 80% of the sessions; and, b) achieved at least 80% correct on the exam. This certificate would indicate the individual has learned material on EIBI but must practice under supervision.

Advanced Certificate

An advanced certificate is available to individuals who would like to go on and within three months of completion send two practice videotapes of their implementation of procedures with a child with autism. Feedback would be provided on learners' actual skills in implementing EIBI techniques. The second video would be scored and participants who are scored as implementing at least 80% of EIBI procedures correctly would receive an advanced certificate that indicates the individual has demonstrated competence in implementing EIBI.

Who Developed This Training?

The training manual and training presentation have been developed by Dr. Joel Hundert and Dr. Nicole Walton-Allen, psychologists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts and directors of Behaviour Institute. Miranda Sim, a Senior Clinician at the Behaviour Institute and also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst co-authored the training material as well. The actual training will be delivered by one of our coordinators who has many years of experience in the field and trains staff at Behaviour Institute.

We have extensive experience in training beginning therapist how to implement ABA with young children with autism, including the training of over 2,000 therapists as part of an Ontario government contract when ABA services were first introduced, by that government in 2000. We have presented symposiums at professional conventions about our training and have published research in scholarly journals about interventions we are using with children with autism.

Dates and Times

Training sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Saturday from over a ten week period.

Needed Equipment

You will need to have access to high speed internet, have an email address and a telephone by the computer that you are going to use.

Costs

The cost of 10 weeks of training including the training manual is outlined below:

1) Early Bird Registration (payment received 45 days prior to the beginning of training) = \$568.00

2) Regular Registration (payment received between 7 and 45 days prior to the beginning of training) = \$619.00

3) Installment Option

Training would be paid in two installments. The first installment (\$369.00) needs to be paid by 7 days before the start of training. The second installment needs to be paid within 30 days after the start of training.

4) Advanced Certificate Option (for video feedback and scoring). An additional \$75.00 would need to be paid before the end of training.

Registration

To register, please complete the information below and mail, fax or email it to Ms. Nadine Eagleson, Behavior Institute, 57 Young Street, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 1V1; Telephone: (905) 570-0777; FAX: (905-570-0778); EMAIL: (binstitute@cogeco.ca) along with payment.

Cancellation Policy

Refund in full will be given for cancellation by 30 dates prior to the start of training. Refund of half the amount paid will issued for payment received between 30 days before and the start of training. No refund will be provided after the beginning of the training.

Registration Form

Date training starts _____
Name _____
Organization _____
Street _____
City _____ Province / State _____
Postal Code / Zip _____ Telephone _____
Email _____

Payment type

Credit card: MasterCard _____ Visa _____

Name on the card: _____

Credit card number _____

Expiry date _____

Enclosed cheque payable to "Behaviour Institute"