



Applied Behaviour Analysis and Children with Autism

Features Of Autism

- Onset before age 3 years
- Significant problems in communication
- Significant problems in social skills
- Repetitive, ritualized behaviours
- Obsessions, desire for sameness, hypersensitivity

What We Know About Autism

- No clearly understood cause, although it is neurodevelopmental and has a genetic component
- Not caused by parents
- No cure or prevention
- Increasing incidence (estimated to be about 1/166)
- Can identify by age two years
- There are many unsubstantiated claims of treatment
- There is treatment that works (ABA)

Applied Behaviour Analysis

- Field in psychology
- Application of scientific methodology to study, understand and change human behaviour
- Skills are broken into a series of small steps and taught using empirically-based procedures of learning
- Applied to many social problems, not just autism

Summary of Research Findings of ABA and Children With Autism

- It works for young children with autism
- Greater hours of therapy are associated with greater gains
- Effects are dependent on the quality of supervision
- More effective, the earlier the intervention
- Few hours are not effective; many hours of eclectic intervention are not effective
- Some children with autism respond better than others

Work in The Field

- There is a shortage of staff at all levels (directors, senior therapists, therapists)
- There is a certification process for supervision positions (www.bacb.com)
- Part-time work at BI:
 - Minimum time commitment of 6 hr/wk based on your schedule
 - Training and ongoing supervision provided by BI
 - Rewarding to make a difference for children in need
 - Apply at www.behaviourinstitute.com

What Do You Do?

- Work in the child's home for approximately 3 hours each shift
- Work one-on-one with the child at a table (some programs take you around the house, outside, etc.), mostly implementing structured programs that are written out by Behaviour Institute, and on which you have been trained
- Engage child during play breaks (teaching play skills, incidental language, etc.)
- Take on-going data on child's performance and behaviour

<http://www.behaviourinstitute.com>



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Welcome To The Behaviour Institute

Providing Solutions for Human Development

The Behaviour Institute is a private agency providing applied behaviour analytical services for children with autism and their families. The Directors are Dr. Joel Hundert and Dr. Nicole Walton-Allen who are psychologists, Board Certified Behaviour Analysts and teach at McMaster University. This website describes our home-based and centre-based services as well as training and other services we offer.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Behaviour Institute received a grant from Unity for Autism (<http://www.unityforautism.ca/home/index.html>) to help families with children attending our centre-based program (Children's College)

Introductory Guide to our Website:

Please look through our website by clicking on the menu on the left of this window or by clicking on the pop-up menu below. Background information can be found in sections with

- Home Page
- Credentials
- What is ABA/IBI?
- ABA Consumer Guide
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