

Teaching Play, Social and Communication Skills on Different Levels Using Naturally Occurring Activities in the Group Settings

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Abstract

There is more and more research being done on effectiveness of ABA and the difficulties with skill generalization across environment, and especially in the group environments after learning skills in 1:1 setting. There are multiple ways on how we could adjust the settings and our approach in ABA therapy, to increase the probability of generalization of the skills we are teaching. Using natural environment training, teaching skills in the environments where those skills will be used in the future, providing a wide variety of stimuli to increase generalization, teaching a skill in the group setting (with individual supports as needed), teaching play and social skills in the peer group instead of teaching initially in 1:1 setting with the adults.

All those adaptations allow us to include peer modelling and peer feedback, which have proven to be more effective for teaching new skills in ABA therapy.

Group setting and teaching in natural environment gives us ability to provide multiple examples of antecedent, behaviour, and responses. Using natural environment with real life stimuli vs artificially created stimuli, such as picture cards, workstations promote generalization.

This presentation will include article reviews and recommendations for setting up natural environments for a variety of skills within ABA therapy.