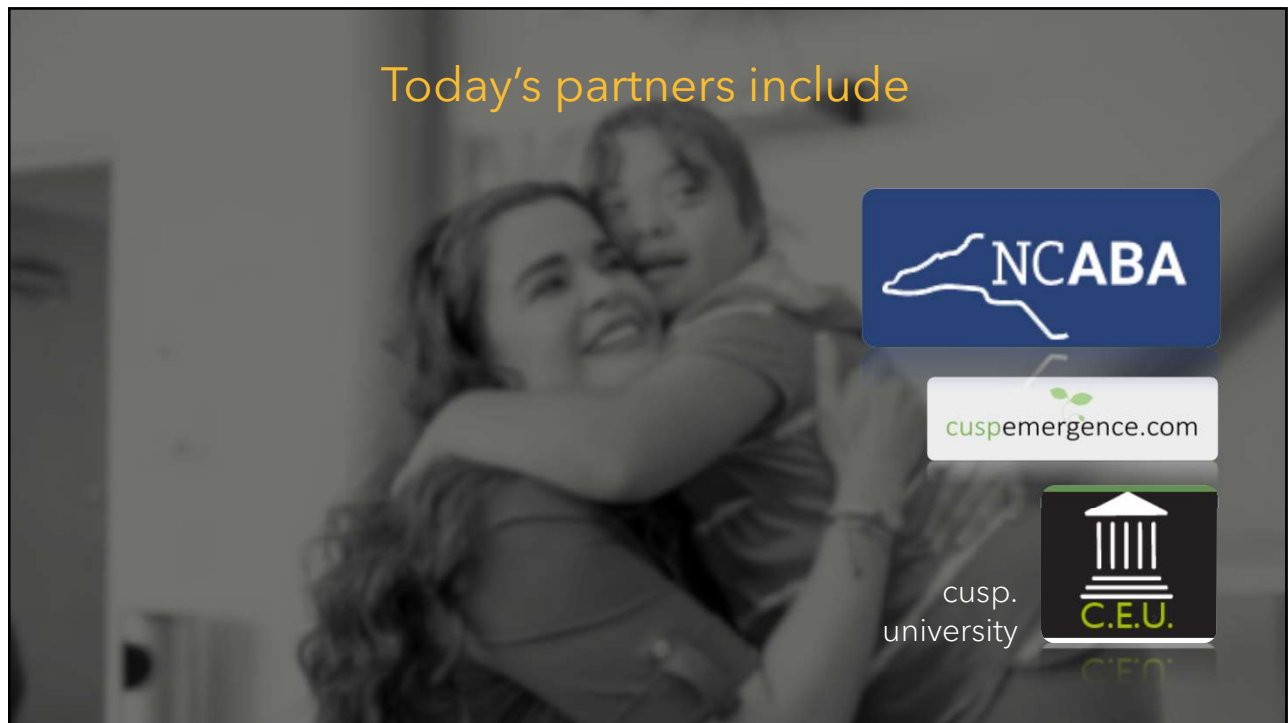






**ADAPTING OUR PRACTICE  
TO NEW NEEDS:**  
A POST-TRAUMA APPROACH  
TO SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS  
USING BEHAVIORAL TOOLS  
IN DIVERSE SETTINGS

Dr. Camille Kolu, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Today's partners include



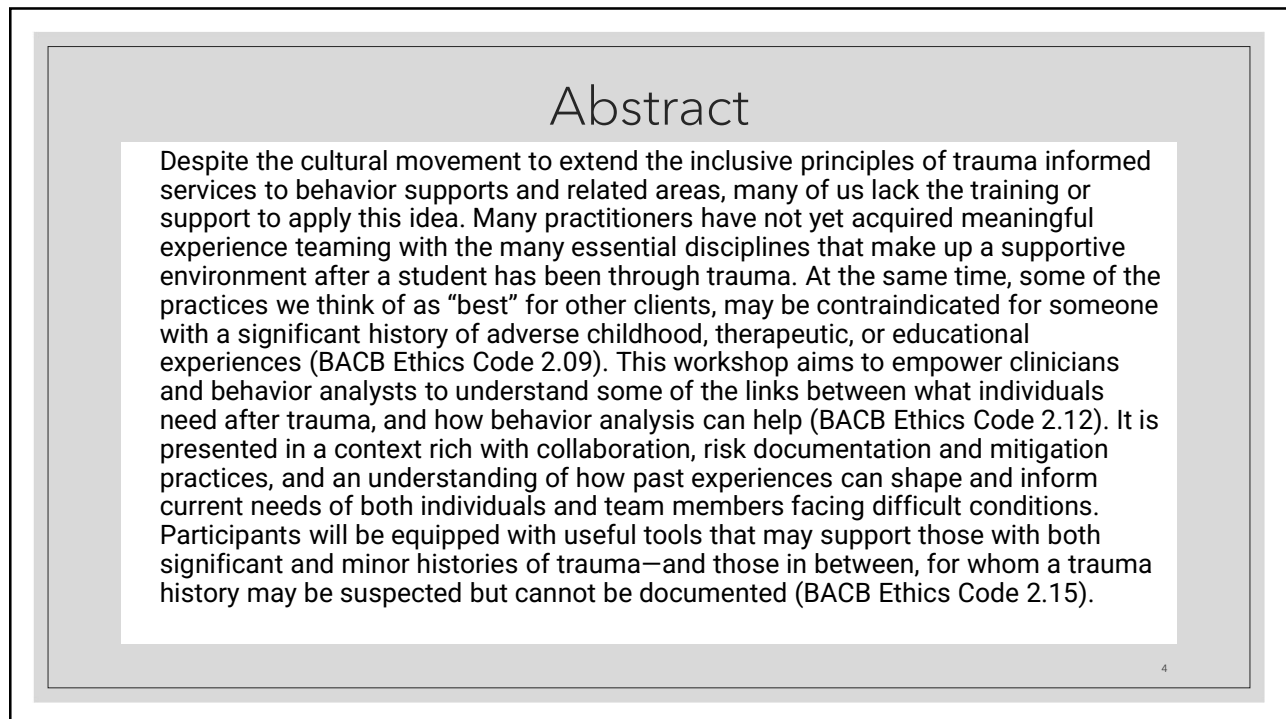
  
  
  




# ABSTRACT

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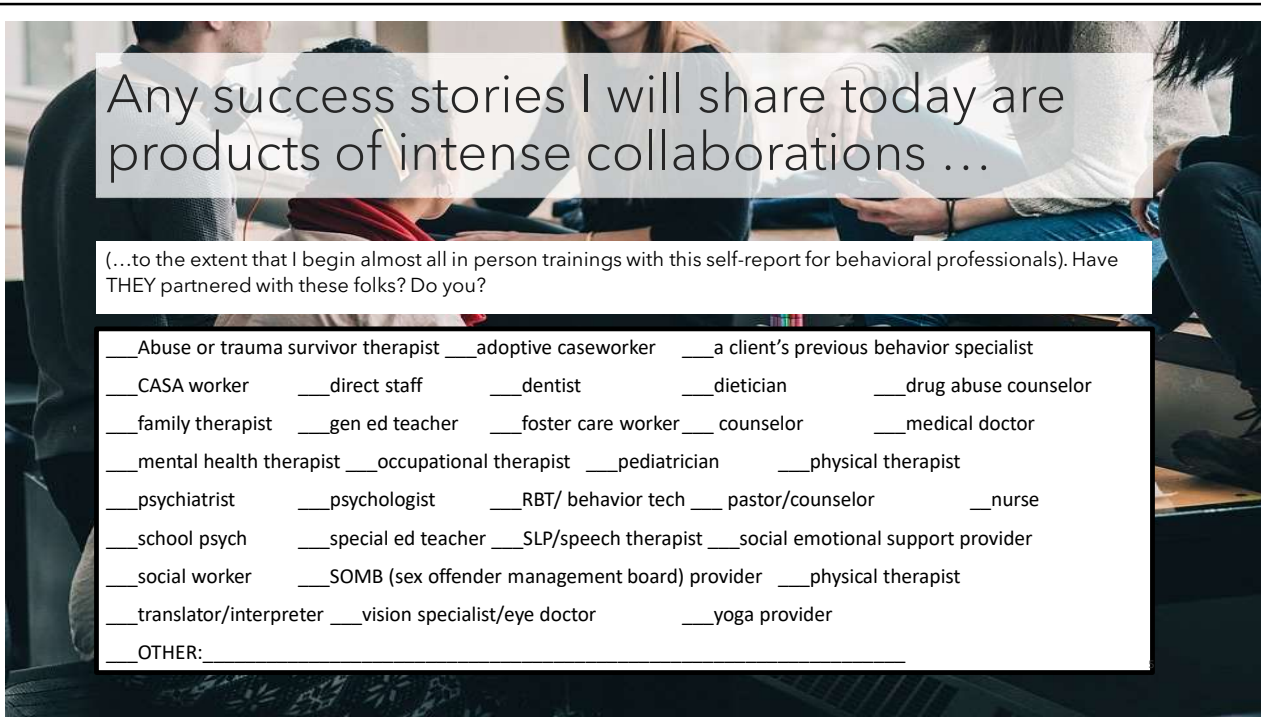
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## Abstract

Despite the cultural movement to extend the inclusive principles of trauma informed services to behavior supports and related areas, many of us lack the training or support to apply this idea. Many practitioners have not yet acquired meaningful experience teaming with the many essential disciplines that make up a supportive environment after a student has been through trauma. At the same time, some of the practices we think of as “best” for other clients, may be contraindicated for someone with a significant history of adverse childhood, therapeutic, or educational experiences (BACB Ethics Code 2.09). This workshop aims to empower clinicians and behavior analysts to understand some of the links between what individuals need after trauma, and how behavior analysis can help (BACB Ethics Code 2.12). It is presented in a context rich with collaboration, risk documentation and mitigation practices, and an understanding of how past experiences can shape and inform current needs of both individuals and team members facing difficult conditions. Participants will be equipped with useful tools that may support those with both significant and minor histories of trauma—and those in between, for whom a trauma history may be suspected but cannot be documented (BACB Ethics Code 2.15).

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Any success stories I will share today are products of intense collaborations ...

(...to the extent that I begin almost all in person trainings with this self-report for behavioral professionals). Have THEY partnered with these folks? Do you?

Abuse or trauma survivor therapist     adoptive caseworker     a client's previous behavior specialist  
 CASA worker     direct staff     dentist     dietician     drug abuse counselor  
 family therapist     gen ed teacher     foster care worker     counselor     medical doctor  
 mental health therapist     occupational therapist     pediatrician     physical therapist  
 psychiatrist     psychologist     RBT/ behavior tech     pastor/counselor     nurse  
 school psych     special ed teacher     SLP/speech therapist     social emotional support provider  
 social worker     SOMB (sex offender management board) provider     physical therapist  
 translator/interpreter     vision specialist/eye doctor     yoga provider  
 OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

- Dissemination
- Address social validity
- Community reach-out
- Continuing Education
- Trauma-Informed Training
- Consultation and mentorship

[kolubcbad@gmail.com](mailto:kolubcbad@gmail.com)

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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1. Describe at least three procedures that may be **contraindicated** for some clients with trauma backgrounds.
2. Identify at least two **tools** to enhance behavior support practices with people affected by trauma, with specific histories presented in case studies.
3. State at least three features of **multidisciplinary case studies** in which behavior analytic procedures are supportive components after trauma.
4. State at least one **example of a behavioral cusp** and a skill that helps individuals (and team members) after trauma.
5. Identify at least **two examples of ACT** (acceptance and commitment training) being used to support teams and individuals after trauma.
6. State at least **three examples of resources** to support individuals and teams after trauma.

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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



## BUT FIRST, A CASE STUDY

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A BIG QUESTION:

And is *this* trauma?

How does a client's history of significant "adverse conditioning experiences" already affect your work with that client and their team?

What about this?

**Janine thrived in her autism class. Then COVID hit.**


Her grandparents were no longer allowed to care for her. Her single mother had to “school” her at home. She was found during a social worker visit dirty, hungry, and making whimpering sounds as she played repetitively with a broken toy.

*Her overwhelmed mom was in another room trying to work from home (and check in on her own parents who were ill and isolated themselves).*

Aniyah's case study

**Some Problems**

- Other staff didn't like, approach, or trust behavior analysts
- Staff were being asked to change behaviors that were related to respondent conditioning and trauma history using operant techniques,
- sometimes making behavior worse *and conditioning ourselves as aversive,*
- setting up students to be taken advantage of by the way we used coercive techniques, unindividualized procedures, and inappropriate plans (like least to most punishment), and
- building rapport with students who didn't trust us, getting them to trust us, then leaving and using our knowledge to teach another staff member to do that (eroding trust)



Educators and behavior analysts wanted consultation to understand why “nothing was working” although they'd identified functions of behavior

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F-1 Review records and available data (e.g., educational, medical, historical) at the outset of the case.

## Aniyah

- 14 y/o trans girl
- Living in hospital on “wait list” for residential treatment
- Kicked out of multiple schools
- Many run-ins with law, juvenile detention
- Drinking, prostitution, robbery, gang activity at 9 years old
- Once-adoptive parents “gave her back”; gang related abuse in bio home



Behavior analysts at school wanted consultation to understand why “nothing was working”; wanted training before bringing her back

# Tool: Worst-Case Scenario

See related blog post:

<https://cuspemergence.com/2017/08/04/ethical-friday-presents-the-power-of-a-worst-case-scenario/>

## What's the worst case scenario?

- For *your practice, your client, and your situation together*, what's the worst that could happen?
- What might be some of the BEST possible outcomes, given the *worst case scenario*?
- What are some options you have right now that could contribute in meaningful ways to those outcomes? (list alternatives)
  - What are some short-term outcomes of each option?
  - What are some long-term outcomes of each option?
  - What options would you choose if you weighed the outcomes of each option? (risk versus benefit analysis)
- If you can't think of any way to prevent the worst from happening, what could you do to make it a little more tolerable? (risk mitigation)

Some of the conversation people had

### Worst case

- We try to intervene and we actually make behavior worse
- We re-traumatize our client
- She is kicked out of even our ABA school
- She goes back to living on the streets
- She is exploited or returns to prostitution and drinking
- She is killed

### Best case

- We have tried all we could
- We learned ways to avoid re-traumatizing our client
- We all tried our best at the ABA school (exhausting less restrictive options)
- We taught her many skills she could use no matter where she ends up
- We worked on values with her and she makes her own choices...



Behavior analysts at school wanted consultation to understand why "nothing was working"; wanted training before bringing her back



### 5-Senses Experiencing

<p>What away behaviors (like running) do you do?</p>	<p>What toward behaviors (like hug) could you do?</p>
<p>← <b>Away</b></p>	<p><b>Toward</b> →</p>
<p>What unwanted internal stuff (like fear) shows up in you?</p>	<p>Who and what's important?</p>

**Mental Experiencing**

The Matrix  
Kevin Polk, Ph.D.

### Tool: The ACT Matrix

#### Outcomes:

- Team identified shared values
- Team embraced new goals
- Team tried new value-centered tactics


### Some of the conversation people had

#### Reality

- We have been avoiding helping her with anything trauma related because we are afraid
- We avoid many topics and triggers, but we aren't sure how our behavior relates, so we accidentally seem to end up presenting MORE of them
- etc

#### Options


1. Do nothing (continue as usual)
2. Do not accept her back into our setting
3. Get training from a trauma-informed therapist and collaborate strongly with them
4. Bring in a specialist to work with her and do not collaborate; continue to operate in our silos
5. Accept into our setting but only after our staff receives training



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## Risk Versus Benefit Tools

Supplement handouts for [CuspEmergenceUniversity.com](http://CuspEmergenceUniversity.com) courses



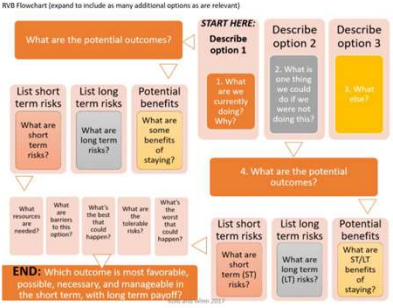
**Considerations:**

- On templates, duplicate signature lines and add space wherever appropriate.
- Try using these on google docs for teams to contribute to (copy and paste into a new doc there).
- These materials are compatible with online trainings and additional materials provided by [cuspemergence.com](http://cuspemergence.com) and [cuspemergenceuniversity.com](http://cuspemergenceuniversity.com).
- Risks and Our Role is a continuing education opportunity that provides considerably more detail on these forms and how to use them, and will be offered later this year.
- We typically conduct the risk versus benefit analysis together as a team and then generate a mitigation plan based on results. It is often helpful to provide a finished product on letterhead, summarized in a prior written notice in a document in education, or as a letter for a court.
- Please conduct all analyses in coordination with following the Ethics codes for your profession and the Behavior Analysis Certification Board.
- If conducting RVB on trauma-related behavior, consider a trauma-informed tool to assess and document risk, like SAFE-T Assessment (see website for more)

Please contact Dr. Camille Kolu at [cuspemergenceu@gmail.com](mailto:cuspemergenceu@gmail.com) for more information.

### Flowchart

RVB Flowchart (expand to include as many additional options as are relevant)



### Template items

#### 10-Step RVB (Sample Items in Risk Versus Benefit Analysis Template)

**Introduction**

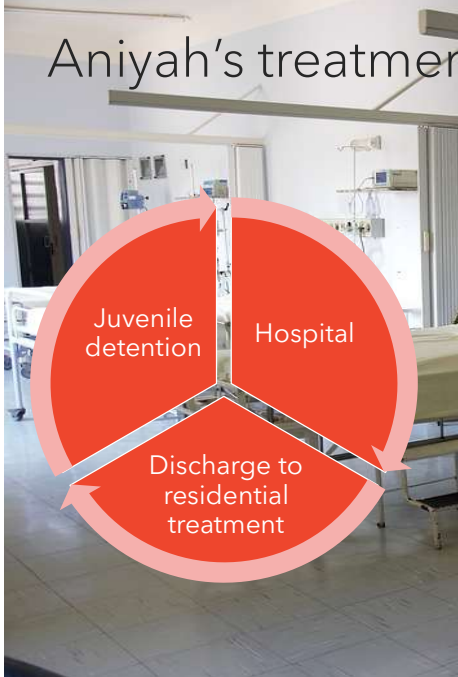
- Overview of the document (e.g., include client name, the name and type of the document, its purpose, clarification that it is NOT a functional behavior assessment or behavior plan, suggested usage, person(s) who prepared it, etc. May include a list of documents or sources that were consulted. Note: This RVB may be included in the PWN or used in PWN (prior written notice in E/P)
- Primary question the team is asking (see example question types above)
- List of options being considered or potentially available

**Option analysis**

- Describe Option 1
- List all potential risks given Option 1 (include long-term risks, short-term risks; include 1 section for each RISK TARGET (see example risk target types above, such as risks to CLIENT, risks to TEAM members, etc.)
- List all potential benefits given Option 1 (include long-term benefits, short-term benefits)
- Summary statement of risks for Option 1.
  - Factors that would be required to mitigate risks
  - Factors that would be required to realize benefits (e.g., include resources, training, education, cost, time, etc.)
  - Cover all information for Option 1, overall statement of whether this option is too risky or potentially acceptable (Repeat option analysis (Steps 4-7) for options 2, 3, 4, etc.)

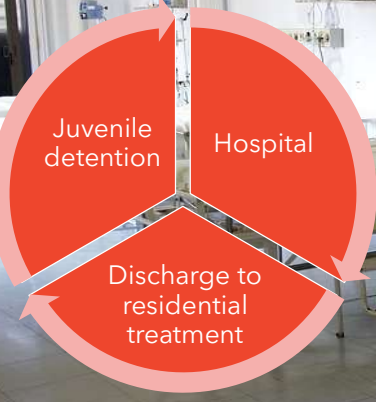
**Conclusions**

- Additional concerns or notes
- Overall recommendations for Risk Versus Benefit Analysis (e.g., if person(s) preparing the analysis recommends one path over another)
- Team input and signatures
  - Place for additional team input (e.g., if they have anything to add after the risk versus benefit analysis is reviewed, put it in writing here)
  - Date this Risk Versus Benefit Analysis was provided to team (prepare this section if discussions about risk were held multiple times)
  - Y/N: Indicate whether the team supports any option at this time
  - If yes, list option the team supports
  - Signatures and roles and dates for each member who signed the document



## Aniyah's treatment

- Risk versus benefit analysis**
  - Documented risks to client, team, foster family, school, hospital staff and assisted team to generate, select and commit to solutions that also mitigated risks



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# Needs and Risks Assessment

- For every risk target, list risk(s) and potential long- and short-term outcomes if this risk is realized
- Prioritize the item
- Describe preventive steps that can be taken
- Discuss with team and decide how to act

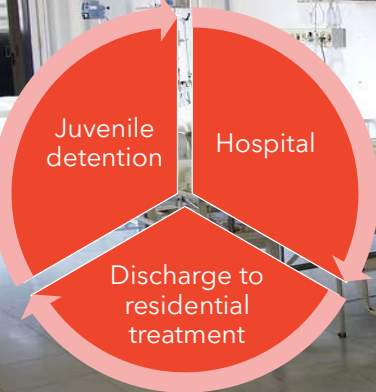


Section C- Part 4. Potential risks to others in the community or society

RELATED ID NUMBERS	Behavior related risk	Circle level of risk based on this client's behaviors (e.g., severe if more than 3 items (ID numbers) in the category are present, or if client engages in any behaviors that can cause immediate harm to others if not stopped)	Description of preventative steps taken	Date risk discussed with team	Notes about reduction of risk
* C1, C10, C11, C12, C21, C22	Risk of causing physical harm to others in the community	Low Medium High Severe			
C1, C11, C28, C29	Risk of causing sexual or social harm to others in the community	Low Medium High Severe			
C12	Risk of causing property damage in the community	Low Medium High Severe			

\* ID numbers come from SAFE-T Checklist

## Aniyah's treatment



### o Risk versus benefit analysis

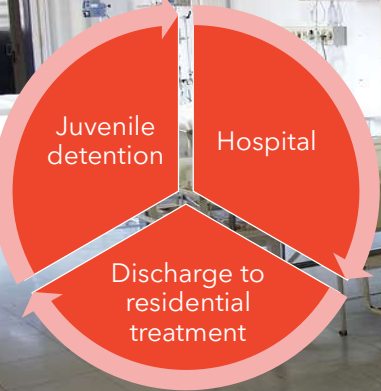
**Option 1** has been identified as "do nothing different/ change nothing"; client continues to come to school but no changes take place

**Risk targets affected by Option 1:** client, hospital staff, foster parents, her guardian, her community members, her peers, school and team staff, her ABA clinic administrators, her current group home peers, her biological family siblings, the funding agents...

#### Option 1 Short-term risks to CLIENT:

- Aniyah loses educational and instructional time
- Aniyah loses social interaction opportunities
- Aniyah experiences painful drug side effects from inappropriate medications to control behaviors
- Aniyah experiences additional restrictive settings
- Aniyah experiences aversive interactions with staff


## Aniyah's treatment



- **Risk versus benefit analysis**
  - Documented risks to client, team, foster family, school, hospital staff and assisted team to generate, select and commit to solutions that also mitigated risks
- **FBA:**
  - Local (immediate) functions of attention and escape
  - But ALSO, contributions of historical trauma
    - Several rapes in previous hospital-like settings, biological family home
    - Car accidents -> TBI -> behavioral sequelae
  - Beaten after reporting pain in home
  - Medical function of some of the assessed behaviors
    - Chronic unmanaged (and unreported) pain from previous assaults, early lack of medical care
- **Treatment began by training physical management staff**

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## Aniyah's treatment



- **Aniyah experienced improvements once we**
  - **Included historical functions** in FBA-related treatments
  - **Incorporated interview information** on the physical characteristics of previous attackers, added **NCR** and conditioned approach as neutral, then did FT visits with police, staff
  - Used staffing huddles to **communicate with the whole team** every few days for about 5 minutes at a time
  - Used **TIP** (Teaching Interaction Procedure) to teach new staff (give rationale, instructions, examples, nonexamples for responding to client)

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What's behavioral about this slide?

- Goals and procedures are embedded for both Anyah and staff
- Triggers in yellow ⚡
- Note the social validity piece and buy-in from the client
- Technology and graphics help guide staff (new staff click video icon)
- Two NCR-like schedules are built in (FT 15m staff attention; weekly police visits)

**See Code Items**

1.02 be accountable, practice within defined role (1.04) and scope of competence (1.05), and comply with requirements (4.01)

Use process for ethical decision making p. 5, see informed consent and risk p. 7; assess risks 2.12, 2.14, 2.15; communicate about services 2.08

2.12 consider medical needs

2.16 describe interventions before implementation, explain conditions necessary for effectiveness

3.11 document professional activity; 3.13 make referrals; 2.10 collaborate

## Is it SAFE to treat behavior yet?

- **Supervision:** Improved case supervision and systems support, including involving high levels of funding agents, law enforcement, hospital management
- **Assessment of risks:** Added risk versus benefit analysis (for behaviors, skill acquisition and decrease targets in context of cultural factors, history, current needs); documented risks and teamed about them; began to make decisions based on risk mitigation plans
- **FBA expanded to include historical and medical functions for all behaviors:** Documented functions of historical variables; assessed appetitive AND aversive stimuli; discussed medical relationship to all behaviors; resolved all medical issues as much as possible
- **Evaluation and environmental management:** Evaluated team's ability to implement plan, needs in current environment; taught preventive skills to all team members **before attempting to modify client's behavior**; continuously assessed environment for barriers to safety and treatment, etc
- **Triage:** Held preventative triage meetings regularly to keep entire team informed, incorporate new information about medical or behavioral concerns, and to maintain rapport (and establish stimulus control over complaints)



Use a trauma-informed approach to better apply "do no harm"

- ❑ Supervision and support
- ❑ Assessment and documentation of risk
- ❑ FBA on HISTORICAL, not just IMMEDIATE, functions
- ❑ Evaluation (needs, environments, behavior)
- ❑ Training, treatment, and triage

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Tools for Aniyah so far:

- ACT Matrix
- Risk versus benefit tools from Cusp Emergence
  - Flowchart
  - Worst case scenario (a tool for supervisors)
  - Risk versus benefit template
- Needs and risks assessment
- Client At A Glance (we'll see more on this later)
- SAFE-T Model acronym to remind us all to use solid supervision, to assess risks, to document historical functions of behavior, and look at environmental needs- all before we purport to "Treat behavior after trauma"

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BRIEF REVIEW

1. Describe at least three procedures that may be **contraindicated** for some clients with trauma backgrounds.
2. Identify at least two **tools** to enhance behavior support practices with people affected by trauma, with specific histories presented in case studies.
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6. State at least **three examples of resources** to support individuals and teams after trauma.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES



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Later in Objective 6, I'm going to suggest you already have important resources for this work: your repertoire, and your knowledge.

We all know about the pandemic... how does it show up in our behavior stream?  
Has it changed how you practice?  
Should it?

COVID-19: Long-term stressor  
we all have in common



**California's first surgeon general on  
Covid: 'Greatest collective trauma' of a  
generation**



<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/19/covid-trauma-california-surgeon-general>



## COVID-19: Long-term stressor we all have in common

- ▶ Schedules
- ▶ Demands on caregivers
- ▶ Work environments combined with caregiving and FEWER resources to do either
- ▶ Lack of connection between therapists and clients
- ▶ Decrease in supervision of children
- ▶ Increase in social isolation
- ▶ Disrupted sleep and nutrition
- ▶ **200,000 children have lost their parents to COVID in the US\***
  - ▶ (not even counting children whose lives have been disrupted by family illness, hospitalizations, and increased experiences of abuse, neglect, accidents related to the pandemic)



### Increase in...

- Mental health problems
- Medical problems
- Medication gaps
- Missing dental and preventive care
- Behavior challenges

\*<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/19/covid-trauma-california-surgeon-general>

## COVID-19: Long-term stressor we all have in common

- ▶ Reminds us all to consider medical factors ...
- ▶ And the interaction between
  - ▶ behavioral,
  - ▶ medical,
  - ▶ environmental
  - ▶ and social concerns



- Trauma can cause, and be cause by, medical concerns.
  - Trauma can CONTRIBUTE to a medical problem
  - Medical problems can also contribute to TRAUMA


"SOME OF THE PRACTICES WE THINK OF AS "BEST" FOR OTHER CLIENTS, MAY BE CONTRAINDICATED FOR SOMEONE WITH A SIGNIFICANT **HISTORY** OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD, THERAPEUTIC, OR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES"


See BACB Ethics Code 2.09

We involve clients and stakeholders by...

- "selecting goals,
- selecting and designing assessments
- and behavior-change interventions,
- and conducting continual progress monitoring"

Perhaps our field is confused about the role of history!  
Maybe we should consult some experts





Lattal and Neef (1996). Recent reinforcement-schedule research and applied behavior analysis. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 29 (2), 213-230.

**"Paradoxically, applied behavior analysts have regarded the role of behavioral history as both paramount and irrelevant.**

On the one hand, a tenet of behavior analysis is that history profoundly affects human behavior. In fact, it could be argued that for applied behavior analysts, arranging conditions to alter subsequent behavior is itself a matter, and goal, of generating a different history that will produce durable changes in the targeted behavior. On the other hand, until the development of functional analysis methods (Iwata, Dorsey, Slifer, Bauman, & Richman, 1982/1994), behavior analysts generally disregarded the historical conditions under which behavior developed."



Iwata et al.  
1982/1994,  
page 198

## Perhaps our field is confused about the role of history! Maybe we should consult some experts:





“...the conditions that are necessary to develop or maintain a response may be totally unrelated to the conditions that are sufficient to alter or eliminate it”

“But it may be ... arbitrary to assume... that the relevance of history depends on whether or not we have arranged it.”

“If we can arrange treatment conditions for desirable behavior to persist in the presence of disruptive events, then we also must appreciate that other conditions in the natural environment create a history in which problem behavior is resistant to change by our treatment conditions. **By understanding how and under what conditions history affects schedule controlled behavior, applied behavior analysts may be able to design interventions that mitigate or optimize those influences.**”

### Related concepts:

Triggers, conditioning context, schedules, extinction-related processes...

[Trauma Reminders: Anniversaries - PTSD: National Center for PTSD \(va.gov\)](#)

- Laypersons might use the terms “anniversary triggers” or “slow triggers”
- We might say the “schedule of acquisition” is one of the contextual variables at the time conditioning occurred.
- See Mark Bouton’s body of work if interested in the role of contextual variables in extinction-related processes...

**Context and renewal of habits and goal-directed actions after extinction**

Article | Full-text available | May 2020 - Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition

Michael Steinfeld · Mark E. Bouton

Instrumental behaviors that are goal-directed actions after moderate amounts of training can become habits after more extended training. Little research has asked how actions and habits are affected by retroactive interference treatments like extinction. The present experiments begin to fill this gap in the literature. In Experiments 1a and 1b...

[Show more](#)

**Effects of conditioned stimulus (CS) duration, intertrial interval, and I/T ratio on appetitive Pavlovian conditioning**

Article | Mar 2020 - Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition

Eric A Thrallkill · Travis P. Todd · Mark E. Bouton

Pavlovian learning is influenced by at least 2 temporal variables: The time between the onset of the conditioned stimulus (conditional stimulus [CS]) and presentation of the unconditioned stimulus (US), and the time between successive conditioning trials (the intertrial interval, or intertrial interval [ITI])...

[Show more](#)

**Pavlovian conditioning under partial reinforcement: The effects of nonreinforced trials versus cumulative conditioned stimulus duration**

Article | Mar 2020 - Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition

Justin A. Harris · Mark E. Bouton

A core feature of associative models, such as those proposed by Allan Wagner (Rescorla & Wagner, 1972; Wagner, 1981), is that conditioning proceeds in a trial-by-trial fashion, with increments and decrements in associative strength occurring on each occasion that the conditioned stimulus...

[Show more](#)

**Inactivation of the Prelimbic Cortex Attenuates Operant Responding in Both Physical and Behavioral Contexts**

Article | Jan 2020 - Neurobiology of Learning and Memory

Callum Thomas · Eric A Thrallkill · Mark E. Bouton · John Green

The present experiments aimed to expand our understanding of the role of the prefrontal cortex (PL) in the contextual control of instrumental behavior. Research has previously shown that the PL is involved when the ‘physical context’, or chamber in which an instrumental behavior is trained, facilitates...

[Show more](#)

**Unexpected food outcomes can return a habit to goal-directed action**

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# Context

## A loose definition of "Contextual Stimulus"

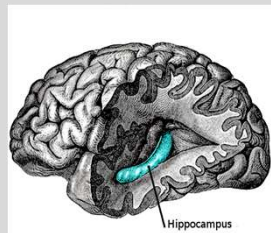
Non-discrete (e.g., diffuse) stimuli...

- that could include people, places, and sensory events (odors, views or visual stimuli, tastes, noises, even vestibular sensations)
- and other things (the timing, the schedule, the time of year, day, month)
- or biologically relevant variables (pain, illness, medications, or states such as deprivation (hunger, thirst) or needs)

**...that were part of the background when learning occurred, but not part of the discrete US-US relation**

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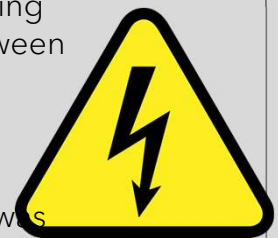
Using olfactory contextual conditioning, we (Parsons and Otto 2007, 2008) found that the hippocampus,



(named for this creature (see the similarity?)...



- is involved in learning the difference between contexts that are **UNSAFE** (something bad happened when I was here/ when I smelled this smell or heard this sound)



- versus **SAFE** (nothing bad has happened to me here/ in the presence of these stimuli



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5b/Hippocampus\\_and\\_seahorse\\_cropped.JPG/220px-Hippocampus\\_and\\_seahorse\\_cropped.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5b/Hippocampus_and_seahorse_cropped.JPG/220px-Hippocampus_and_seahorse_cropped.JPG)

# Context

## A loose definition of "Contextual Stimulus"

Non-discrete (e.g., diffuse) stimuli...

- that could include people, places, and sensory events (odors, views or visual stimuli (Mary's example: "a ceiling fan was turning above me"), tastes, noises, even vestibular sensations)
- and other things (the timing, the schedule, the time of year ("it was almost Halloween when my brother raped me"), day, month)
- or biologically relevant variables (pain, illness ("I remember I had just eaten a certain food and kept throwing up afterward") or states such as deprivation (hunger, thirst) or needs)

**...that was or were part of the background when learning occurred but not part of the discrete US-US relation**

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# Context

- (Mary's example: "a ceiling fan was turning above me"),)
- ("it was almost Halloween when my brother raped me")
- ("I remember I had just eaten a certain food and kept throwing up afterward")

Every one of these examples was part of the background information clients provided about sexual encounters that involved abuse, nonconsensual sex, or pain.

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# Contextual Variables

**Mary's example:** "a ceiling fan was turning above me"

**Visual stimulus:** often followed by self injurious behavior (scratching and cutting breasts)

**Jan:** "it was almost Halloween when my brother raped me")

**Time of year/ schedule effect:** Jan experiences suicidal ideation during the fall as it gets closer and increased aggression in Nov

**Ava:** "I remember I had just eaten a certain food and kept throwing up afterward"

**Internal state/ physiological condition** (Ava vomited while trying to prepare for sex with her partner and eventually avoided dating)

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## Operationalizing some sex related events in behavioral terms for Mary

- **Contextual variable:** Ceiling fan turning + lying underneath it may be a setting event in the presence of which,
- Another person's approach acts as an CMO-T with transient functions:

### Operant functions:

- **Person acts as an SD** for response class of escape and avoidance
- **Escape and avoidance** is more reinforcing
- **Members of this response class (avoidance and escape related behaviors)** are temporarily more likely to occur
- And **S-delta in whose presence** "compliance related behaviors" are not likely to occur

### Respondent functions:

- At the same time as conditioned physiological responses occur (her heart races; her mouth becomes dry)

**Mixed:** (and back to operant... Mary's use of SIB may relate to conditioned responses that were originally unconditioned responses to the unconditioned stimuli related to the assault)

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When a contribution of *medical* trauma (see 2.12) is revealed,

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we may have an easier time understanding and accepting how and why treatment may need to change

Sophie

An under-weight <sup>46</sup> malnourished-looking child in foster care is court-ordered to receive “**feeding therapy**” and **behavior therapy** to address significant avoidance behaviors associated with it.



Sophie 47

HISTORICAL context	LOCAL context	Antecedent variables	Behavior	C
Food presentation -> eating -> pain	<b>Celiac disease diagnosis</b>			
	It's lunchtime. Mom and a therapist are present.	Food on spoon is placed inside mouth	Sophie vomits and turns head	<b>Spoon/food placed back in mouth</b>
	room; adults; spoon; <b>learning history</b>	SDs; S-deltas; unconditioned and conditioned stimuli	CRs, operant responses	Extinction of avoidance behaviors? <b>Presentation of conditioned aversive stimulus?</b>

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**Celiac disease diagnosis**



**CELIAC DISEASE (and pain, etc)** was present the entire time. But the **DIAGNOSIS** is new. That means that without realizing it, we have been

- Providing treatment that incorporates the repeated presentation of aversive stimuli
  - That are related to medical factors
  - And to Sophie's specific learning history



ADAPTING OUR PRACTICE  
TO  
**NEW INFORMATION OR  
VALUES**  
RELATED TO CLIENT NEEDS

Dr. Camille Kolu, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Even with new knowledge, medical contributions are tricky...

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What do I do with this information?

My team tells me to document the referral, but doesn't give me a form...

I gave the family a referral, but I'm not sure what they did with it...

Yikes! I've never collaborated with a medical provider before...

OK, it's documented, now should this go in the FBA somewhere? How does it affect the BIP?

Doesn't the CODE say to rule OUT medical contributions? Does that mean if I find one, my job is done?


**TOOL**

When we make medical (or other) referrals, we need to document the referral and the response (and follow up/ collaboration) (2.10, 2.12, 2.15)

### Medical Documentation FBA Supplement

**Team Instructions:** Use this form to document referrals. Use different copy for each referral. Complete separate confidentiality agreement for each medical professional BEFORE submitting referral to professional. Attach confidentiality release to form.

A.  (Y)  (N) There is CURRENTLY risky behavior that may put someone at risk (if YES, if possible, attach risk analysis that is dated and signed by team members when reviewed).

**B. Check EVERY item that applies below. You may check several.**

- Referral was **not** made by team to medical professional
- Medical contributions to behavior **MAY be** present but have **NOT been** ruled out.
- Medical contributions to behavior are **NOT present**. They **have been** ruled out.
- Medical contributions to behavior ARE present. If contributions are present, complete section B.**
- Referral was recommended but permission was not provided.
- Referral **was** made by team to medical professional

**B. If referral was made, OR RECOMMENDED, complete section below.**

(Y)  (N) Guardian provided permission on date: \_\_\_\_\_ (if YES, attach confidentiality release)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date team made professional referral

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of medical professional

\_\_\_\_\_ Follow up date (when professional contacted you back, submitted report, etc)

(Y)  (N) Professional provided report (if YES, attach report to this documentation)

Tools for Aniyah so far:

- ACT Matrix
- Risk versus benefit tools from Cusp Emergence
  - Flowchart
  - Worst case scenario (a tool for supervisors)
  - Risk versus benefit template
- Needs and risks assessment
- Client At A Glance (we'll see more on this later)
- SAFE-T Model acronym to remind us all to use solid supervision, to assess risks, to document historical functions of behavior, and look at environmental needs- all before we purport to "Treat behavior after trauma"

• *Aniyah has avoided medical appointments for years because they remind her of sexual assaults.*

• **So to tools, now we add the Medical Documentation Referral Form.**

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## BRIEF REVIEW

## 1

1. Participants will select procedures that may be contraindicated for some clients with trauma backgrounds

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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## Let's tackle that phrase: "with trauma backgrounds"

Related concepts:

- Aversive control
- Reinforcement histories
- Values like compassion and caring
- Behavior analytic tenets like social validity

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## The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity



Dr. Nadine Burke Harris,  
California Surgeon General

“Dr. Nadine Burke Harris was already known as a crusading physician delivering targeted care to vulnerable children. **But it was Diego—a boy who had stopped growing after a sexual assault—who galvanized her to dig deeper into the connections between toxic stress and the lifelong illnesses she was tracking** among so many of her patients and their families.” (from excerpt on book *The Deepest Well* (2018) by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, Surgeon General of California <https://www.linkedin.com/in/drburkeharris/>)

## Why is trauma suddenly discussed so much?

- **Landmark** studies
- Adoption of **wide scale efforts to change educational practice, incorporate social justice**
- Recognition that it is affecting **large numbers of people** (and recent data show **COVID-19**-related issues have significantly increased those numbers)
- **Media and publications** that connect for people that trauma results in lifelong medical, mental health, and educational challenges

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## According to Chuck Merbitz...



<https://behavioralobservations.com/how-to-work-well-with-others-session-63-with-chuck-merbitz/>

In describing situations where people have endured far-reaching abuse and trauma, Chuck Merbitz mentions how distressing he finds an arrogant behavior analyst with no time for understanding that person's history. Loosely quoted below, he shared:

“It's not that the behavior analytic tools aren't useful in situations like that... it's the **incredible human pain** people bring to the situations is often **lost on BA's who aren't prepared to work with** people like that. Because you don't know their **back story**, and if you're lucky they'll tell you their back story... You know, there's a lot of wonderful people in the world. And there's a lot of people who have been treated very badly... This is **a more pragmatic and human relationship** grappling than a cut and dried having them count things. ... There's a whole universe... out there that we don't have the tools to measure. These are **valid experiences**, these are things that **shape the way people live** and hurt and experience, and we as behavior analysts have to be able to grapple with that. We're a very young science.... **shouldn't** restrict your thoughts and activities to the stuff that's easy to measure and **be afraid** of the stuff that's not.”

Everyone has a story to consider...



An ANALYSIS  
of behavior

The PRACTICE  
of applied  
behavior  
analysis

What's behavioral about treating  
behavior after trauma?

## Ok... but where is the literature SPECIFICALLY relating trauma and behavior analysis?

- Buckner, Lopez, Dunkel, and Joiner (2008). Behavior Management Training for the Treatment of Reactive Attachment Disorder. *Child Maltreatment*, 13 (3), 289-297.
- Franks, Mata, Wofford, Briggs, LeBlanc, Carr, and Lazarte (2013). The Effects of Behavioral Parent Training on Placement Outcomes of Biological Families in a State Child Welfare System. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 23(4), 377-382.
- Kurtz, Chin, Rush, and Dixon (2007). Treatment of challenging behavior exhibited by children with prenatal drug exposure. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 29 (6), 582-594.
- Prather (2007). Trauma and Psychotherapy: Implications from a Behavior Analytic Perspective. *International Journal of Behavioral Consultation and Therapy*, 3 (4), 555-570.
- Rajaraman A, Austin JL, Gover HC, Cammilleri AP, Donnelly DR, Hanley GP. Toward trauma-informed applications of behavior analysis. *J Appl Behav Anal*. 2022 Feb;55(1):40-61..
- Richman et al. (2015). Meta-analysis of noncontingent reinforcement effects on problem behavior. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 48 (1), 131-152.

## Ok... but where is the literature SPECIFICALLY relating trauma and behavior analysis?

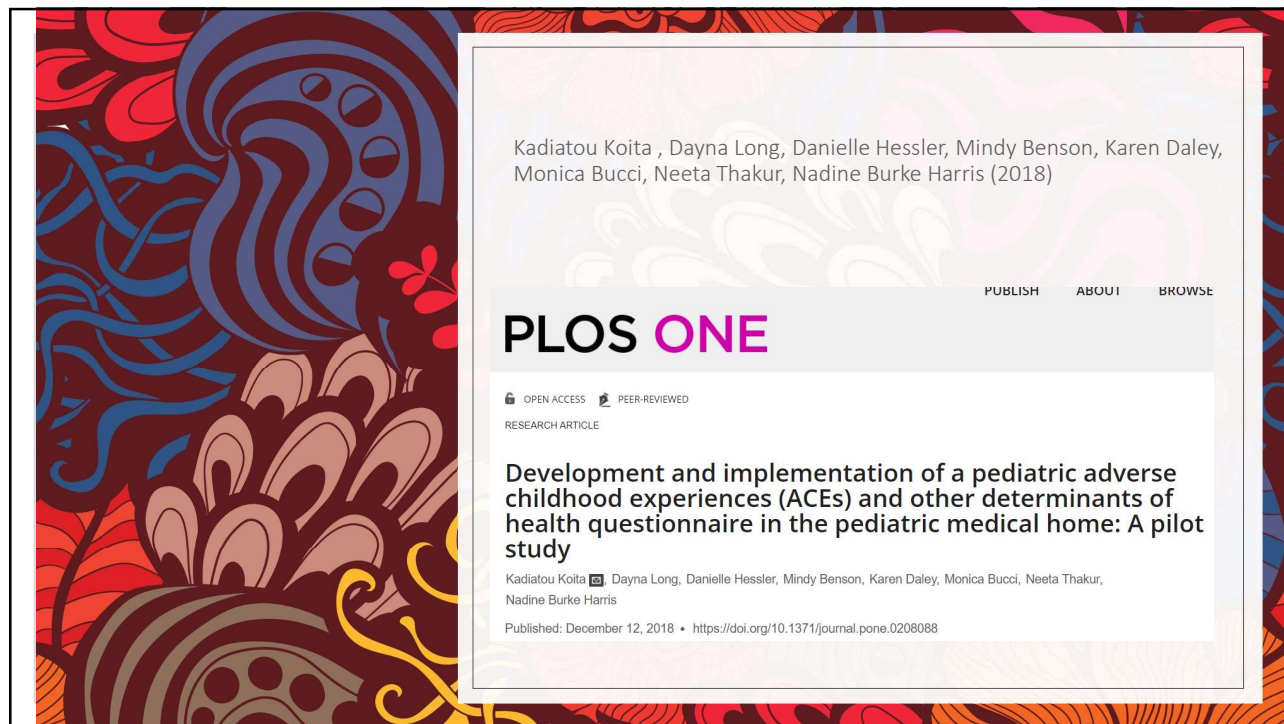
International Journal of Behavioral and Consultation Therapy

Volume 5, No. 1

### **A Behavioral Perspective of Childhood Trauma and Attachment Issues: Toward Alternative Treatment Approaches for Children with a History of Abuse**

*Walter Prather and Jeannie A. Golden*

**Abstract**




Kadiatou Koita , Dayna Long, Danielle Hessler, Mindy Benson, Karen Daley, Monica Bucci, Neeta Thakur, Nadine Burke Harris (2018)

PUBLISH ABOUT BROWSE

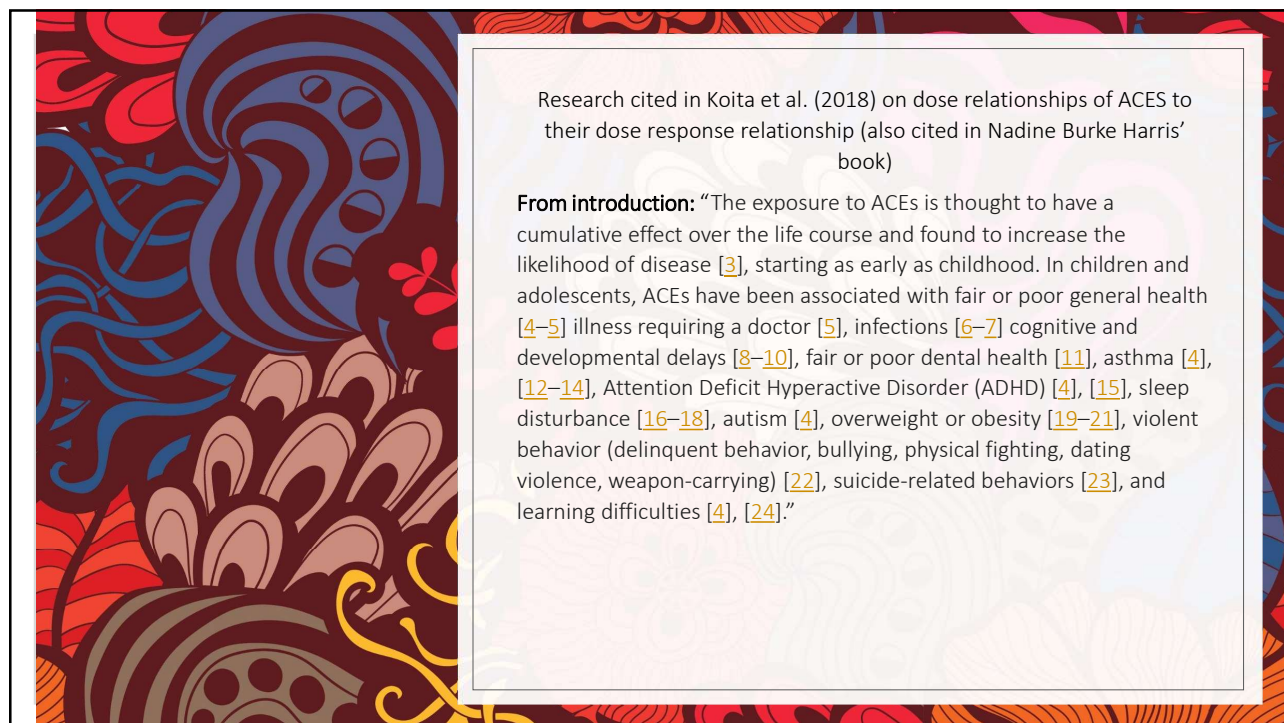
## PLOS ONE

OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED  
RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Development and implementation of a pediatric adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and other determinants of health questionnaire in the pediatric medical home: A pilot study

Kadiatou Koita , Dayna Long, Danielle Hessler, Mindy Benson, Karen Daley, Monica Bucci, Neeta Thakur, Nadine Burke Harris

Published: December 12, 2018 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208088>



Research cited in Koita et al. (2018) on dose relationships of ACEs to their dose response relationship (also cited in Nadine Burke Harris' book)

**From introduction:** “The exposure to ACEs is thought to have a cumulative effect over the life course and found to increase the likelihood of disease [3], starting as early as childhood. In children and adolescents, ACEs have been associated with fair or poor general health [4–5] illness requiring a doctor [5], infections [6–7] cognitive and developmental delays [8–10], fair or poor dental health [11], asthma [4], [12–14], Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) [4], [15], sleep disturbance [16–18], autism [4], overweight or obesity [19–21], violent behavior (delinquent behavior, bullying, physical fighting, dating violence, weapon-carrying) [22], suicide-related behaviors [23], and learning difficulties [4], [24].”

“No intervention is guaranteed to work for every individual, every time, in every context.”

-in panel discussion by Mark Galizio, Jason Travers, and Joel Ringdahl

## 47th Annual Convention; Online; 2021

All times listed are Eastern time (GMT-4 at the time of the convention in May).

### Event Details

[Previous Page](#)

Invited Panel #121

CE Offered: BACB – Ethics

**DEI** Exploring Publication Bias in Behavior Analysis Research

Saturday, May 29, 2021

4:00 PM–4:50 PM

Online

A WORKSHOP GOAL: “EMPOWER CLINICIANS AND BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE LINKS BETWEEN WHAT INDIVIDUALS NEED AFTER TRAUMA, AND HOW BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS CAN HELP”

See BACB Ethics Code 2.12

If there is “any reasonable likelihood” that a referred behavior is

- Influenced by medical variables
- Or influenced by biological variables...
- We ensure medical needs are assessed **and addressed**
- We **document referrals** made
- We **follow up** after making the referral



Translational work\* is going to be REALLY important if we are to understand, and move toward, truly applying behavioral science to trauma more broadly

- **Relevant connection:** applying knowledge of extinction-related phenomena to clinical practice (e.g., Epstein & Skinner 1980; Lattal et al. 2017; Franks and Lattal 1976; and Saini and Mitteer 2019)
- **Example:** Marsteller and St. Peter Pipkin (2014) used FT schedules to prevent the resurgence of extinguished behavior when DRA alone was not effective.

\*For more on translational work see Mace & Critchfield, 2010

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### Remember Aniyah's Client At A Glance?

- This "15m check-in"
  - Is the addition of a fixed-time delivery of attention for Aniyah
  - It is not dependent on how she is doing!
  - She doesn't have to ask politely, or ask at all.
  - Staff are available and show up.
- And she knows it's coming. Staff don't try to
  - "Catch her being good" or link it to her behavior...
  - Or manipulate her with it.
- **Aniyah** provides ongoing input, gave her informed consent, *and provides assent*, to this procedure.

• I'm having preventive check-ins each 15m right now. Thank you!

• I'm leaving all my visitors myself. You can check it after I go off for a break.

WE WILL LEARN TOOLS TO SUPPORT  
INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT, MINOR, AND  
EVEN UNKNOWN HISTORIES OF TRAUMA

See BACB Ethics Code 2.15

We only implement restrictive or punishment-based procedures

- When there has been a risk versus benefit analysis
- And the risk of harm to the client outweighs the risk associated with the intervention
- In compliance with any review procedures
- And with continual evaluation and documentation of the effectiveness

## Toward a potential behavioral definition of trauma 68

Conditioning experiences with both operant and respondent constituents,

-including contextual stimuli and variables (e.g., non-discrete (e.g., diffuse) stimuli...

- ▶ that could include people, places, and sensory events (odors, views or visual stimuli, tastes, noises, even vestibular sensations)
- ▶ and other things (the timing, the schedule, the time of year, day, month)
- ▶ or biologically relevant variables (pain, illness, medications, or states such as deprivation (hunger, thirst) or needs)
- ▶ and that were part of the background when learning occurred, but not part of the discrete US-US relation)

-As well as antecedents, conditioned stimuli, operant and respondent responses, response products, outcomes in the behavioral environment, and environmental changes), and the accompanying movements, biological and physiological changes), are involved in (and may be related to subsequent

- Alterations in function
- Establishing repertoires characterized by escape and avoidance
- Often with respect to stimuli and outcomes that may be critical components of quality of life for others with similar needs or even for the person)

## Toward a potential behavioral definition of trauma 69

### Short version:

A conditioning experience with both operant and respondent components that relates to subsequent adverse behavioral and biological/medical effects and long-term impacts.

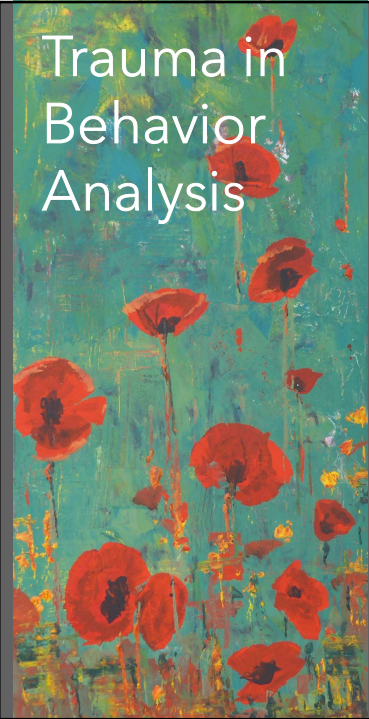
Kolu (c) 2018

## Trauma in Behavior Analysis

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- ▶ What others call trauma may result from aversive experiences that reduce an individual's ability to cope with situations.
- ▶ These aversive experiences may include disruptions in caregiving and childhood, or exposure to circumstances that disrupt living situations, safety, or health.
- ▶ Outcomes of what others call trauma
  - ▶ may include neurological and behavioral changes including developmental disruption, regression; behavioral deficits and excesses, and skill loss or retardation in skill acquisition...
  - ▶ not explained by another diagnosis.

Kolu (c) 2018

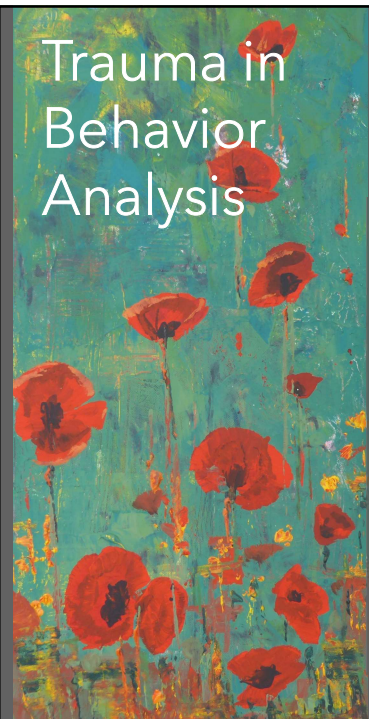


## Trauma in Behavior Analysis

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- Trauma may take place given a behavioral history
  - in which appropriate, biologically relevant and social needs of an individual
  - were not met
  - or were violated repeatedly,
  - resulting in disrupted behavior streams

Kolu (c) 2018



## Trauma in Behavior Analysis

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- Disrupted behavior streams may include
  - behavioral excesses
  - or deficits
  - that occur in response to environmental events,
  - including caregiver-paired or delivered stimuli,
  - and are not otherwise age appropriate
  - or explained solely by a developmental or medical diagnosis

Kolu (c) 2018

## Trauma in Behavior Analysis

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- Some variables that give rise to disrupted behavior streams may include
  - extreme interruptions
  - in caregiving
  - or social interaction
    - (e.g., exposure to sexual
    - or drug abuse,
    - deprivation of food
    - or social contact)

Kolu (c) 2018



## Ethics Code Items 4.08 d (old); 2.15 (new)

### 2.15 Minimizing Risk of Behavior-Change Interventions

Behavior analysts select, design, and implement behavior-change interventions (including the selection and use of consequences) with a focus on minimizing risk of harm to the client and stakeholders. They recommend and implement restrictive or **punishment**-based procedures only after demonstrating that desired results have not been obtained using less intrusive means, or when it is determined by an existing intervention team that the risk of harm to the client outweighs the risk associated with the behavior-change intervention. When recommending and implementing restrictive or **punishment**-based procedures, behavior analysts comply with any required review processes (e.g., a human rights review committee). Behavior analysts must continually evaluate and document the effectiveness of restrictive or **punishment**-based procedures and modify or discontinue the behavior-change intervention in a timely manner if it is ineffective.

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But what if we didn't know what we were doing was aversive?

**The SAFER Autism Checklist: Can your client with autism and trauma answer yes?**  
This is a checklist under the umbrella of the SAFER-T Model for safer treatment of behavior other traumas, by Dr. Camille Kaku Ph.D., RCBM-D.

**Systems support, supervision and safety are present.**

- My team has appropriate professionals on it who share values. They collaborate in robust ways and communicate effectively. I am important on my team and my opinions are taken into account. My team obtains my assent as we work together on things important to me.
- If my team has a supervisor or administrator, that person champions my needs and provides adequate training and support for the team members who support me. They think a few years ahead and build partnerships and collaborations and obtain mentorship and education to insure we are always moving toward our values.
- If I need special trauma related (or mental health, or medical, or any other kind of) support in addition to behavior analysis, I have it.
- I have at least one safe person and place. I have skills to request things that I need and people understand. I don't have to ask a certain way to get my basic needs met or to get out of a situation that is aversive or unsafe for me.

**Assessment of risks takes place regularly.**

- People around me look at me as a whole and individual person before recommending programs. My clinicians follow ethical guidance to do a risk versus benefit analysis to make sure a program is right for me and the benefits outweigh the risks. Even if the procedure is "best practice" for someone else, my team still does a risk analysis to make sure it's right for ME.
- If I have been through trauma, my team looks at the specific risks conferred by those situations and plan accordingly. My team puts risk mitigation plans into place
- I provide input into my assessments, including assessments of risks I might face because of my needs, behavior, and history.
- There are risks I face more than other people may because I have autism or that are related to experiences I've had as an

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**AUTISM,  
TIBA,  
& ETHICS**

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## Examples of trauma faced by children and adults with autism, with whom our team works

- ▶ War; PTSD
- ▶ Poverty, homelessness
- ▶ Immigration related challenges
- ▶ Violence, drug abuse, and/or alcoholism in family
- ▶ Deaths of family members
- ▶ Long term illnesses or medical issues/ treatment
- ▶ Witnessing or perpetrating violence; incarceration
- ▶ Childhood experiences (ACES; see [Nadine Burke Harris' TED talk](#))
  - ▶ Abuse, mistreatment, neglect
  - ▶ Being treated inappropriately while growing up with mental illness or disorders
  - ▶ Foster care; adoption; multiple placements; abandonment

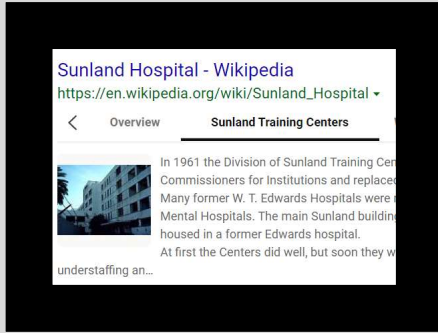
## Concerning outcomes of **behaviors** and environmental interactions

### **Common example in my practice:**

- ▶ Client has a school IEP/BIP that includes LEAST-TO-MOST punishment procedures; typically aversive interactions become reinforcing
- ▶ Client uses a behavior that results in injuring a caregiver
- ▶ Family places the child in treatment foster care to get him more help
- ▶ Client uses unsafe behavior and is provided police contact and removed from school and sent home where there is more aversive interaction
- ▶ Client is abused and moves 8 times before ending in a more permanent setting
- ▶ Along the way he harms other individuals and spends time in prison where he is again abused

<https://cuspemergence.com/2020/09/08/contraindicated-behavioral-procedures-after-trauma/>

Take special care with...



Reliance on tangible consequences for "good behavior"

And even preference assessments that require removing things someone loves

Also please see Bailey and Burch's text *Ethics for Behavior Analysts*

For Aniyah: some potentially contraindicated procedures

- Physical prompting was being used with Aniyah for noncompliance, but she had been through recent physical and sexual abuse
- Attention related extinction was being used, but she had just been neglected and "given back" by a family who had claimed they wanted to adopt her
- Preference assessments (MSWO) were resulting in self injury after the sessions, and might have been related to her loss of all tangibles during her long hospitalizations and foster care/neglect

Needs and Risks Resource: Potentially Contraindicated Procedures (e.g., procedures needing special care before implementation)

Potentially Contraindicated Procedures		
<i>It is recommended to request specialty provider input, rule out medical contributions, and document risks related to, these procedures when these behavioral or situational factors are present.</i>		
Clusters of Risk Factors	Related items in SAFE-T Checklist	Behavioral procedures or protocols that may require special care
Previous food insecurity, food related abuse or neglect, and/or severe food deprivation; or feeding related issues	<b>Possible behavioral factors include:</b> C16, C17, C18 (eating much less or more than others, or eating out of garbage) <b>Possible situational factors include:</b> F28 (food insecurity); F29 (starvation); F13 (e.g., life disrupted due to immigration or war, could be risk factor for food insecurity); F30 (food related abuse or neglect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding treatment</li> <li>• Non-removal of spoon</li> <li>• Pairing appropriate behavior with food delivery/ Making food delivery contingent on appropriate behavior</li> <li>• Edible related preference assessments</li> </ul>
Previous sexual abuse; Medical complications from sexual or physical trauma (could include incontinence, fecal smearing)	<b>Possible behavioral factors include:</b> C2, C11, C27, C28, C29 (sexual play behavior, sexual depictions, sexual aggression to others); C30 and C30 (in some cases smearing feces and/or toileting disruption may be related to physical or medical challenges after sexual abuse or physical trauma) <b>Possible situational factors include:</b> Experiencing sexual abuse (FA5) or multiple instances of sexual abuse (F9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:1 support without oversight or additional precautions</li> <li>• Toileting procedures (toilet training)</li> <li>• Certain physical prompting procedures</li> </ul>
Previous neglect or adverse circumstances (deaths of parents, removal from unsafe conditions, war, immigration or poverty related issues)	<b>Behavioral factors:</b> Person shakes (D33), freezes (E32), or there's developmental disruption around caregivers (E9) <b>Situational factors:</b> FA2 (parent an alcoholic or addicted to substances, or child was present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention related extinction</li> <li>• Differential reinforcement of appropriate versus inappropriate requests</li> </ul>





## Some clinical differences between ABA-typical and ACE-affected populations

*Note: ACE stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences*

### 1. Differences in typical behaviors, skills, characteristics

- Higher risk of “sexualized”, “parentified” and “team- or family-splitting” behaviors
- Learning differences lead to school trouble (for example, retention of information may be challenging, related to drug exposure in utero or disruption of early learning)
- Sensory differences; increased pain threshold

### 2. Differences in typical response to treatment

- Inconsistent history leads to inconsistent response to praise or social-mediated stimuli
- Disruption of acquisition of communication skills and age appropriate skills

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## Some clinical differences between ABA-typical and ACE-affected populations


**3. Differences in family and parent skills:** Typical caregiving skills often not effective (doesn't mean placement is inappropriate; may mean training needed); client cannot trust adult models (may have had abusive and challenging behaviors modeled by multiple adults)

**4. Differences in team support needed:** Role clarifications (examples: client may be guardian of another entity or person; state or legal agency may be involved); intense collaboration/support, medical and mental health collaboration, social workers and other team members unfamiliar to BCBA's

**5. Differences in risks to clients and community:** Risks of sexual behaviors, physical/sexual trauma; risks because of missing skills (example: decreased advocacy/reporting of crime or trauma/recognizing and reporting pain); Dangerous behaviors may have been modeled and valued (e.g., were useful prior to the removal from unsafe situations)

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After trauma, our client is still...

- a person with preferences, interests, feelings, desires; joys
- someone who uses behavior in the CONTEXT of their current and past environments... like everyone else
- capable of growth and deserving of love (and meaningful social interaction, even if their current behaviors reduce the likelihood and quality)
- at risk of being exposed again to abuse or trauma by well-meaning people
- a human being who matters. (And who has needs outside the realm of behavior analysis)

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After trauma, our client may...

- have skill gaps because of their history or medical impact of trauma
- use behaviors that have problematic “functions”, but that were once useful (and maybe even their only hope)
- not always be capable of the same thing all the time
- have experienced behavior analysis that was part of harmful treatment
- have had a member of their behavioral, mental health, or educational team who abused them - or didn't stop it

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<https://cuspemergence.com/2020/09/08/contraindicated-behavioral-procedures-after-trauma/>

Take special care with...

<b>Edible reinforcement</b>	<b>1:1 without oversight</b>	<b>Toilet training procedures</b>
<b>attention related EXT, differential reinforcement of appropriate versus inappropriate requests, or time out from attention reinforcement</b>	<b>Contingent praise statements to establish compliance related behaviors</b>	<b>Least to most punishment</b>

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## BRIEF REVIEW OF OBJECTIVE 1

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## Contraindicated procedures may be

1

- Those that are not individualized
- Those that a risk versus benefit analysis suggests are risky
- Those that fail to take historical (and trauma related, but this could include medical) variables into account
- Those that could worsen behavior given someone's history
- Those that condition people (caregivers, educators) as aversive
  - Or that depend on a positive history between adults and students (without regard to how this may be absent for our client)
- Those that rely on consequence related procedures when the delivery - and WITHOLDING- of consequences would only increase punishment for a client
- **Those that are not helpful at FIRST but that are able to be faded in later with careful planning and after data indicates it will be helpful**

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OBJECTIVE REVIEW

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2

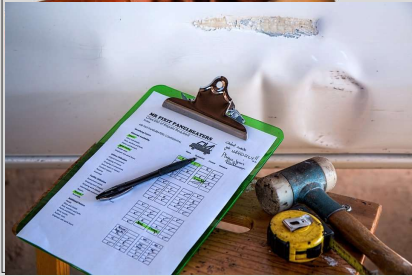
2. Identify at least two tools to enhance behavior support practices with people affected by trauma, with specific histories presented in case studies.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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## Why both resources *and* tools?



- A resource is something that you have that you can use, like a supply of something, an ability, a place that provides something useful, or a thing.
  - Resources could include things like your own skillset- such as your set of leisure skills, your own array of reinforcement alternatives, your cognitive flexibility and noticing skills.
- Tools are more specific: a device that aids in accomplishing a task; a means to an end; something necessary in your profession
  - Tools we'll discuss today are the checklists and templates (etc) used at specific times in my practice
- Adapted from [Resource Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](#)

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For Aniyah...

As much as her therapists enjoyed being around her, and as awesome as friends are...



We did  
**NOT...**

- Act like her friend

...because boundaries are incredibly important and I wasn't going to be one more team member **pretending to be a friend** who would then leave (and possibly set her up for more abuse, confusion, and being taken advantage of)

## But how did we get there? Tool: The client role map

### This role map is a tool to help staff:

- Remind staff and other roles what things are helpful/ not helpful to do with client

### It is also used to help the client:

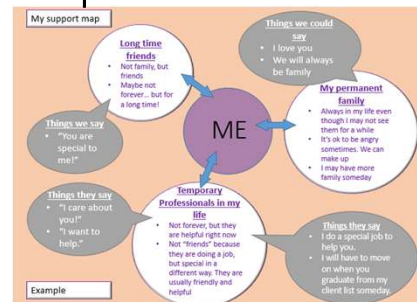
- With skills including: See face/state name; hear name/ select face;
- Provide discrimination training examples and practices for skills like:
  - Recognizing important people on their team
  - Stating person's role when they see their face or hear their name
  - Stating what the person does and does not do
  - Stating what the person might say (and should not do)

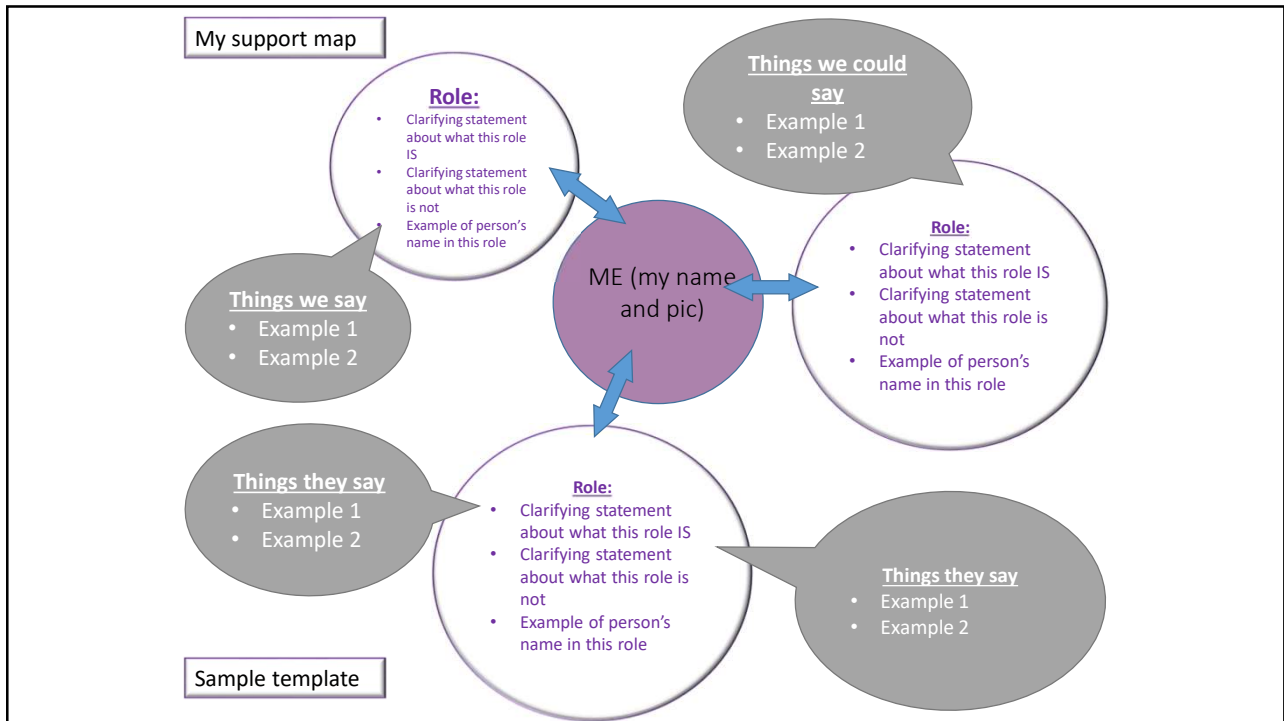
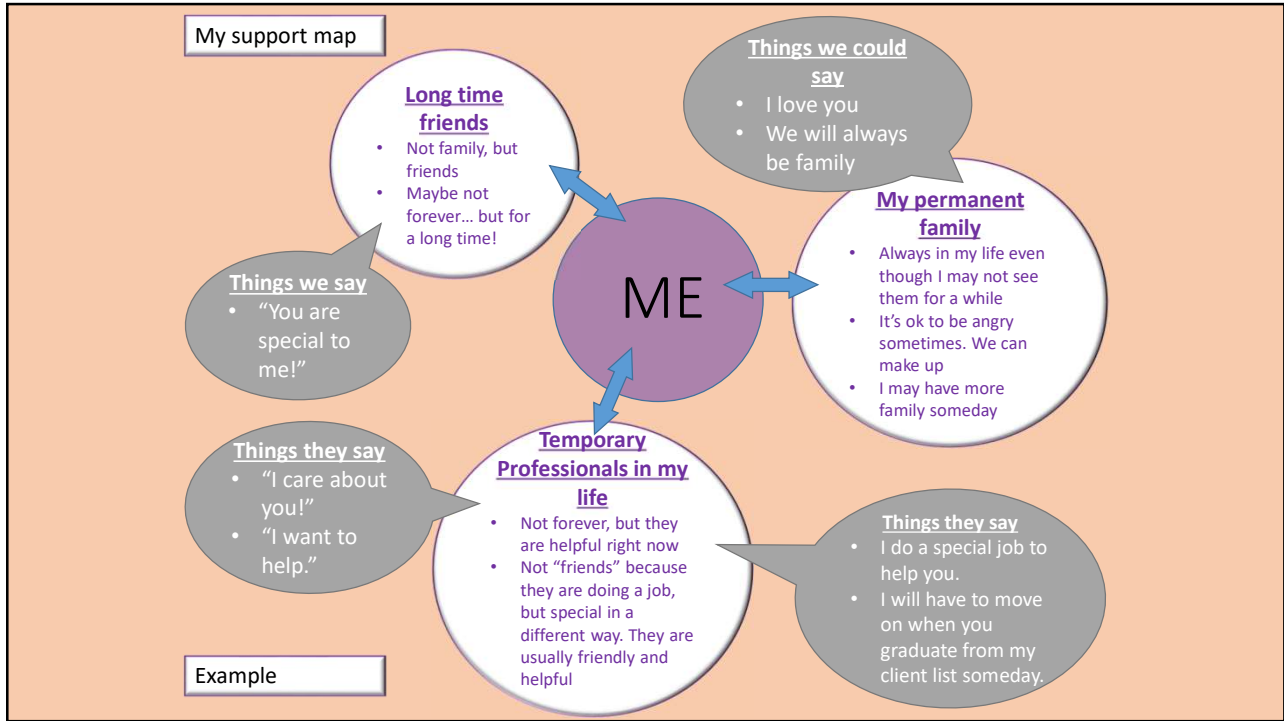
### Prerequisite materials or skills may be helpful:

- Some clients and client teams may benefit when we list roles before we meet with the client, to get staff on same page first
- If there are specific boundaries that have been violated, teach the appropriate boundary using several examples and non-examples
- It might be helpful to practice "noticing" skills (ACT related skills to get calm, take deep breaths, notice surroundings) before using the tool

### Notes for using the tool

- Before using, remind client (and caregivers!) it's ok to take a break or stop practicing the tool when needed
- We can practice the tool when things are calm
- It can be posted as a visual and referred to when calm
- Do all the above **BEFORE supporting** using the tool

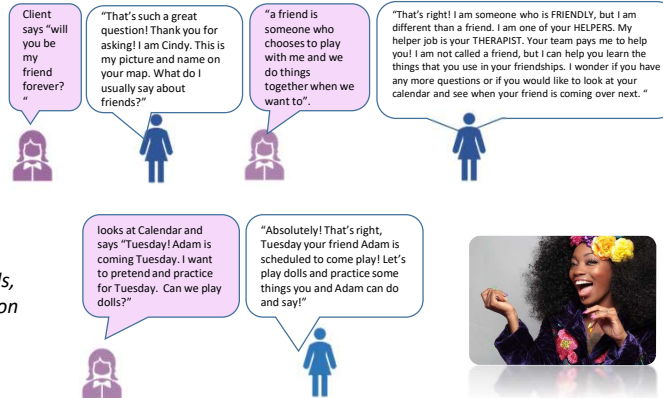




## Example of supporting client\*, using the role map tool

\* Note that this example is for a particular client, for whom these statements are developmentally appropriate and have been prefaced by skills assessment, acquisition and practice.

The pictures, words, examples and lesson are adapted for individuals' needs.



**TOOL**

What about those pesky "I swear, it came out of the blue!" descriptions of behaviors?

Client: INVENTORY of POTENTIAL AVERSIVE STIMULI and SETTING EVENTS (IPASS)

Respondent:

Check this box if AUDITORY stimuli (things the person hears) seem to be related to challenging behaviors			
Check ANY sounds that seem to relate to behavior challenges	When were sounds related to challenging behavior?	Are these aspects of the sounds problematic?	How are these stimuli (Mark all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> loud noises <input type="checkbox"/> crashing <input type="checkbox"/> laughing <input type="checkbox"/> cough/sniff <input type="checkbox"/> chewing <input type="checkbox"/> talking <input type="checkbox"/> Other sounds:	<input type="checkbox"/> soft noises <input type="checkbox"/> celebrations <input type="checkbox"/> animals <input type="checkbox"/> vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> rustling <input type="checkbox"/> yelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Past <input type="checkbox"/> Now (present) - but rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Now (present) - and often <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it starts <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it stops <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When people discuss it <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it lasts a long time
Give an example of a time that noises related to challenging behaviors for the person.			<input type="checkbox"/> Noises seem to "se" <input type="checkbox"/> Person freezes wh <input type="checkbox"/> Person seems upse <input type="checkbox"/> Person uses challe <input type="checkbox"/> The person avoids <input type="checkbox"/> The person uses ur <input type="checkbox"/> These stimuli are c If yes above, when befo <input type="checkbox"/> seconds <input type="checkbox"/> mint
Check this box if VISUAL stimuli (things the person sees) seem to be related to challenging behaviors			
Check ANY that seem to relate to behavior challenges	When were visual stimuli related to challenging behavior?	Are these aspects problematic?	How are these stimuli (Mark all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> bright lights <input type="checkbox"/> flickering <input type="checkbox"/> people approaching or leaving <input type="checkbox"/> seeing emotion (happy, sad, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> blood or injuries <input type="checkbox"/> drug paraphernalia <input type="checkbox"/> Other, or specific examples:	<input type="checkbox"/> darkness <input type="checkbox"/> strobe lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Past <input type="checkbox"/> Now (present) - but rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Now (present) - and often <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it starts <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it stops <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When people discuss it <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N When it lasts a long time
Give an example of a time that visual events related to challenging behaviors for the person.			<input type="checkbox"/> Visual events seem <input type="checkbox"/> Person freezes wh <input type="checkbox"/> Person seems upse <input type="checkbox"/> Person uses challe <input type="checkbox"/> The person avoids <input type="checkbox"/> The person uses ur <input type="checkbox"/> At least one is ofte If yes above, when befo <input type="checkbox"/> seconds <input type="checkbox"/> mint
Check this box if ODORS (things the person SMELLS) seem to be related to challenging behaviors			
Which odors may relate to behavior challenges?	When were odors related to challenging behavior?	Are these aspects problematic?	How are these stimuli (Mark all that apply)



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Tool to share:

Client At A Glance

**FRONT SIDE:**  
About the client

And you remember Aniyah's Client At A Glance... this is a scaled back, lower-tech version on powerpoint (many teams find it helpful to try on google slides or an equivalent)



<p><b>PREVENTIVE TECHNIQUES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Be polite and respectful!</b>: offer the best option but honor her appropriate requests.</li> <li>❑ <b>Approach thoughtfully:</b> Be positive and friendly and smile.</li> <li>❑ <b>Use momentum:</b> Give a compliment or use friendly small talk right before a request</li> <li>❑ <b>Give options:</b> Use an approach that avoids open ended questions but embeds 2 alternatives</li> <li>❑ <b>Come back and try again a little while later</b> if she politely refused earlier today but you still need to get</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meals (Client is diabetic but used to selecting food from a diabetic friendly menu)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ "Almost time to eat. Let me know if you want to sit in the dining room or computer room!"</li> <li>❑ "Today we are having meatloaf, mashed potatoes and rolls. Does that sound good or would you rather check out this grill menu"</li> <li>❑ "Here's your food. Let me know if there's anything else you need"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meds and Medical Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ "Time for lunch! (while showing her the needle) Let's get your blood sugar; show me which finger you want to use today."</li> <li>❑ "Ooh, I love these flowers! Your room smells so nice. Time for meds, you can take _ or _ first."</li> <li>❑ I hear you that you wish you didn't have to take these meds. This is one the court says is important for your health and safety so you need to take it. You can take it now or I'll come back in 10 minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>98</p> <p>Tool to share:</p> <p>Client At A Glance</p> <p><b>FRONT SIDE:</b> About the client</p> <p><b>BACK SIDE:</b> About the plan</p>
	<p><b>Showering/ Hygiene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ "Time to get clean and dressed up for the piano group! I can help do your hair after we get the shower done. Let's take a walk together and figure out which one you want to use today"</li> <li>❑ (If "I don't want to shower": "Thanks for letting me know. We can clean you up in your room. Does it sound best before breakfast or before lunch?" (before lunch) "ok, I'll see you around 11!")</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behavior notes</b></p> <p>Honor refusals that are appropriate and safe (Examples: "I don't want to take these today"; "I don't want to talk about ___"; "I'm not hungry right now"; "No thank you" (the first time a med is offered)</p> <p><b>If behavior escalates</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record signs of behavioral escalation and/or mental health symptoms: Using derogatory words; Higher voice volume; Refusing meds for more than 1 day; Talking about delusions/hallucinations more often</li> <li>2. Contact Mental Health provider and notify them</li> <li>3. Continue to use preventative language, honoring any APPROPRIATE refusals/requests</li> <li>4. Start unsafe refusal protocol</li> </ol>	
	<p><b>UNSAFE REFUSAL PROTOCOL</b> (An unsafe refusal means she is refusing something and being unsafe (using unsafe behavior to staff including hurting someone, threatening or breaking things) OR refusing something that is medically necessary (refusing to take court ordered meds)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow all preventative procedures and if possible, re-approach later with respect and options</li> <li>2. Contact _____ and let (name) know what is happening: (email: _____ and phone: _____)</li> <li>3. Call to inform _____ (hospital name) Behavioral health unit</li> <li>4. Call crisis unit at _____ and explain problem. If they cannot come out:</li> <li>5. Call 911 and provide letter to emergency responders</li> <li>6. Keep guardian (name, phone) informed</li> </ol>		



Aniyah sometimes seemed to love attention. But delivered in the “wrong way” could really set her off...

### Adult Attention Student Survey

- This is developed with our clients and used in combination with observation, interview and collaboration with other teachers and caregivers
- We revise the language and materials when needed for the age level and what the students tell us. Smile/frowns are used so that the materials are adaptable and low-tech
- We print and fold the “face picture” paper so the student can just turn it over when they want to show us the “mad” versus “happy” face
- We adapt the question style to functioning levels... for some students we first read the item, then “play-act” or role play (“pretend I’m doing \_\_\_\_\_”) and they show us/write in/ hold up a smile/frown
- We talk about how we are going to use the information whenever we can, but sometimes we won’t be able to
- We thank the student for their input
- We use “convergent evidence” between the student’s responses and those of other teachers, team members or caregivers to adapt our programming
- We use the student input about their teacher’s role, to develop “ways I can act and respond”

We explain to the student:

*Let’s talk about some ideas. For each one, you can tell me if you like it. You can use this smiley face to help show me what you like. If you don’t like it you can use this mad face to tell me. You can draw your own faces or you can use my card. We’re just practicing.*

### C. ADULT HELPER SURVEY

Select my role:  
 Educator  Caregiver  Therapist  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide my input:  
 What would I most like to know about how to help this student?  
  
 What can I share about what has been helpful when I am working with this student?

Instructions: Circle Y (yes) if these were helpful. Circle N (no) if they were hurtful or did not work. Circle “?” if they haven’t been tried yet.

Y N ? 1. In front of others: Praising the student’s appropriate behavior

Y N ? 2. Helping one on one: Praising the student’s appropriate behavior

Y N ? 3. In front of others: Asking the student if they need help

Y N ? 4. When working one on one: Asking the student if they need help

Y N ? 5. Offering to help without being too obvious (e.g., “If you need help just nod and I’ll come help)

Y N ? 6. Offering help to the group (e.g., “If anyone needs help they can just raise their hand”)

Y N ? 7. Giving the student a “dignified out” by having them give you a “secret signal” then helping discreetly

### STUDENT SURVEY ITEMS

#### A. When I do a great job, my teacher might....

- 1. Tell me what I did that was awesome.
- 2. Talk to me after class when no one is watching us.
- 3. Tell the kids in my class.
- 4. Give me a thumbs up from across the room.
- 5. Smile at me.
- 6. Write down a note and give it to me later.
- 7. Tell other adults.

#### B. When I have a hard time, my teacher might....

- 1. Talk to me in front of the class
- 2. Say “do you need help?”
- 3. Say “try this.”
- 4. Give me a hint.
- 5. Give me a secret signal and come help me.
- 6. Write me a note.
- 7. Watch for me to give a secret signal, then help me.



What about when we don’t have information on what trauma the student experienced? Can we still be trauma-informed? Look at all the tools we could use...

- **IPASS and Adult Attention Preference Survey**
- **SAFE-T Screening**
- **SAFE-T Assessment\*** to learn more (a LOT more- 200 items)
- **Buffers Score**
- **Risks versus benefit (RVB)** and risk mitigation plan templates (see examples in this presentation)
- **TIBA BIP**
- **TIBA FBA**

\*SAFE-T Assessment is the only tool not available free (due to the extensive training required- comes only with 4.5 CEUs and a booklet of resources)

**SAFE-T SCREENING TOOL**

Use this page as SCREENING TOOL or to document referral concerns: Write in the date, or check the past and/or current box as appropriate for each item (if there is a possible concern or if the person, to your knowledge, has ever used this behavior or shown this concern).

**Challenging behaviors or concerns I have for this person in the past or present**

Past	Current	Behavior
		Acts out aggressive or sexual roles with others
		Using alcohol, cigarettes or drugs
		Challenging behavior when almost any transition takes place
		Depicts aggressive events in their writing or drawing
		Challenges with appropriate leisure skills
		Trouble responding to caregiver's instructions
		Challenges with transitioning to rest or bed
		Depicts sexual events with drawing or coloring
		Destroys property
		Eating much less than others the person's age and size
		Eating much more than others the person's age and size
		Eating out of the garbage or eating hygiene products
		Makes false accusations about others
		Several weekly explosive bouts of behavior or crying spells lasting longer

**Adverse experiences or difficult caregiving situations that have affected this person in the past or present**


Past	Current	Situation
		Everyday caregiving techniques seem to make challenges worse
X		Client exposed to drugs in utero
X		Client homeless as a child
		Client shows reduced eye contact with caregivers but not other people
X		There is documentation of mistreatment, abuse or neglect
		It is likely a client was present during drug use
		Medical diagnosis, or medical concerns
		Mental health diagnosis
X		It is likely a client experienced neglect
X		It is likely a client experienced sexual abuse
X		It is likely a client experienced physical abuse
		It is documented a client witnessed family violence
X		Client was abandoned as a child or young adult
X		Client stayed in foster care
X		Client was adopted
X		Client was in multiple foster care placements
X		Client was in a failed adoption
X		Person's primary care was interrupted by a caregiver's incarceration or poverty

## PART 1

### SAFE-T


### Screening Tool

- 1 page form
- Often used during intake
- Left:** Behavioral concerns
- Right:** Situational factors



## SCREENING FOR TRAUMA MAY BE HELPFUL FOR STAFF TOO!

- Identify with each other
- Identify with students
- Do values work
- Make individual brief support plans for staff (when do I need a break? What are some supportive things I do to calm down when working with really difficult student situations? What if I need to tap out and just take a moment? Etc)



**TIPS and BIPS**  
Trauma Indicator Possibilities Screening (TIPS) and Buffering Item Possibilities Score (BIPS) (NOTE: This is NOT an assessment or verification of trauma. It is only a tool to help a team look at factors indicating a person MAY need further support.)

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**SAFE Staff:** Screening tool for possible trauma indicators in staff or team members. **NONE of these items is meant to judge a behavior as wrong, detect or diagnose trauma or any other concern on the part of staff or clients, but to assist teams with supporting their members and clients (could include areas such as training, emotional support, mental health support, or additional expertise, etc).**

Y/N	Concern experienced by staff
	Client harm: Has witnessed clients harming themselves
	Client harm: Has witnessed clients harming other clients
	Client harm: Has witnessed clients harming staff or team members
	Client harm: Has been harmed by a client's physical actions
	Restraint: Has been involved in administering physical restraint
	Restraint: Has been involved in administering physical restraint in which someone else was injured
	Sexual trauma: Works with client who has experienced sexual trauma was experienced
	Property Destruction: Has had personal

**Adverse experiences or difficult situations that have affected this person in the past or present**

Y/N	Situation experienced by staff
	Has experienced trauma in their own childhood – between 1 and 4 events
	Has experienced trauma in their own childhood – 5 or more events
	Has experienced housing or food insecurity as an adult
	Has experienced job, transportation, or financial insecurity as an adult
	Has family members with medical concerns at present

# WHAT ABOUT WHEN SCREENING'S NOT ENOUGH?



The diagram features a black and white photograph of a young girl with long, wavy hair on the left side. On the right, the text "SAFE-T ASSESSMENT" is displayed in orange and white. To the right of the text is a logo consisting of a grid with the letters S, A, F, E, and T, where the T is inside a heart shape. Below the text is a central diagram of six interconnected hexagons, each representing a component of the assessment:

- A. Professional Support** (orange hexagon)
- B. Family variables** (teal hexagon)
- C. Behaviors of Concern** (green hexagon)
- D. Development, Learning, and Repertoire** (cyan hexagon)
- E. Interaction with Caregivers** (yellow-green hexagon)
- F. Exposure to Possible Adverse Experiences** (orange hexagon)

Text annotations for the diagram:

- Next to B: Team records about 200 items and makes referrals to appropriate professionals
- Next to C: Risks related to the items are documented and flagged for monitoring
- Next to F: The results are integrated in FBA's plans, and training documents

**SAFE-T CHECKLIST**

Upon completion of the screening tool (previous page), if there are 5 or more items marked, or ONE of the highly risky items as determined by team, use the SAFE-T Checklist for additional intake information. This form can be used in multiple ways. Some teams use this to document existing concerns that members learn about through conducting a comprehensive file review, and other teams may elect to conduct interviews with members of the client's team if appropriate as part of re-assessment or a needs and risk assessment. (See Part 2 of this document for documenting risks and needs related to clusters identified in the SAFE-T Checklist).

### Section A. Professional Support

ID	Past	Now	Item	Risk	Follow Up
A1			Abuse or trauma survivor therapist	R	
A2			Adoptive caseworker	R	
A3			Behavior support by a behavior therapist or specialist		
A4			Behavior support by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst		
A5			CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) support	R	
A6			Day program staff		
A7			Dentist		
A8			Dietician		
A9			Drug abuse counselor	R	
A10			Family therapy	R	
A11			Foster care	R	
A12			General education teacher		
A13			Individual counseling		

## PART 1

### SAFE-T Checklist with ACES

- Complete if needed
- 200 items
- 6 Domains



See Code item 2.15: "continually evaluate and document the effectiveness of restrictive or punishment-based procedures"

## COMMUNICATING ABOUT RISKS

### 10-Step RVB

(Sample Items in Risk Versus Benefit Analysis Template)

**Introduction**

- Overview of the document
- Primary question the team is asking (or decisions, procedures, or targets being considered)
- List of options being considered or potentially available, or list of risks and concerns being addressed, and options you have in addressing them

**Option analysis**

- Describe Option A
- List all potential risks given Option A (long-term risks, short-term risks; include section for each RISK TARGET)
- List of potential benefits given Option A
- Summary statement of risks for Option A

(Repeat option analysis (Steps 4-7) for options B, C, D, etc )

**Conclusions**

- Additional concerns or notes
- Overall recommendations for Risk Versus Benefit Analysis (e.g., if person(s) preparing the analysis recommends one path over another)
- Team input and signatures

### Basic Risk Mitigation Report Template

**Info**

- Client:
- Team members:
- Problem this plan is addressing:
- Date the RVB was reviewed with team:
- Option the team selected:

**Plan**

- Risk(s) addressed by this option:
- Actions required to mitigate this risk:
- Person(s) responsible for actions:
- Additional resources required:
- Date to be completed:

**Team communication**

- Team initials for Risk Mitigation Plan (includes statement of agreement or nonagreement with plan, and place for each member to add input)

## Some Features of a Trauma-Informed FBA

Examples of supportive timing for delivering key stimuli on preventive schedules (NCR, FT schedules)

Behavioral descriptions of adverse conditioning experiences and trauma related stimuli



List examples of triggering environmental events and how person responds



Past and historical functions of the person's challenging behaviors



Document medical or physiological contributions to trauma-related events

Describe important past or present schedules and how person was affected (e.g., what time of year a tragedy occurred, or what holidays or times of day, month or year are most difficult and why)



## Some Features of a Trauma-Informed FBA

### Possible Appendices



Referral documentation; description of social network of client and team; letters to police, administrators or medical staff describing important preventive interactions (NCR, FT schedules)



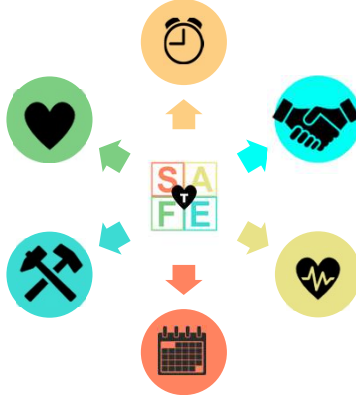
Risk versus benefit analysis for options being considered; risk mitigation plan addressing option(s)

## Possible Features of a Trauma-Informed Behavior Plan

**Time-In is scheduled as an antecedent strategy** with preferred people.  
 High-level attention is not contingent on acting out but regularly scheduled. Preventive check-ins are used and scheduled based on data.

There is a **designated safe person** who will start and regularly practice check ins at a safe place. Descriptions are in plan, to help safe person continue to foster the relationship.

Procedures and activity schedules are included that **target appropriate repertoire development**. May include AIM, PEERS, TAPS, ACT skills, behavioral activation, IISCA, etc; **add buffering items\*** to plan if not already present

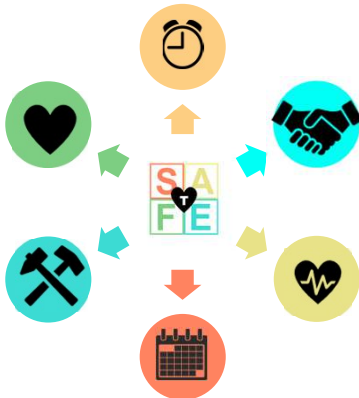


**Relationship building procedures** present for regular people in student's life. Primary caregivers/educators receive training (strengthen approach, neutralize aversive interactions, address needs). Adult attention preferences are assessed/ described.

If **medical factors** were part of FBA results, provide behavior plan recommendations in 3 areas: Communication, behavior, and training.

**Preventive procedures** for times of day, month, year, etc that team will be addressing historically difficult times. Team practices these in advance. If there is going to be a substitute, there are clear visual aids and videos or brief trainings.

## Possible Features of a Trauma-Informed Behavior Plan



**\*Buffering items** are the 6 components that Nadine Burke Harris (2017) and others suggest can protect **AFTER** trauma; include adequate exercise, sleep, nutrition; good relationship; stress relieving skills; and mental health support

### Notes on procedures that target appropriate repertoire development:

- Assess all procedures for risks/benefits, reducing contraindicated procedures.
- Select research based techniques.
- Consider missing skills (e.g., flexibility, defusion, social emotional skills, self advocacy, problem solving, correspondence between verbal behavior and actual events (e.g., “telling the truth” and “self-awareness”; see Dymond and Barnes (1997); tolerating appropriate demands. Some compatible and behavioral approaches or programs may include the following:
  - ❑ DNA-V (includes free resources on the developmental model acceptance and commitment therapy) <https://thrivingadolescent.com/dna-v-free-resources/>
  - ❑ TAPS/ (talk aloud problem solving; work by Joanne Robbins): <https://talkaloudproblemsolving.com/>
  - ❑ AIM/ work by Mark Dixon: <https://www.acceptidentifymove.com/about>
  - ❑ IISCA/ work by Greg Hanley: <https://practicalfunctionalassessment.com/>
  - ❑ Flexible and Focused (book by Adel Najdowski targeting executive functioning skills)

### Client's Buffer or Resilience Score

**Buffer/Resilience Score:** In Section E, *The Nurturing Environment*, there are 6 items referenced in multiple publications (including Dr. Nadine Burke Harris' work reported with pediatric patients) that can help individuals who have been through trauma. The highest score a client could receive is a 6 in this area, if all 6 items are present for a client.


**Action Item:** If the client lacks one of these, the team could enlist appropriate professionals (see Professional Support, section A of SAFE-T Checklist), or add support using in-house expertise. We can often bolster the client's program with new skills or supports that may serve as protective factors for younger children, or as a buffer for ongoing or new stress for older clients including adults. ACT and mindfulness studies are also cited in the references section and may be useful to address item E49. ACT related interventions have also been effective to support clients with intellectual differences, developmental disabilities, and parents, and there are studies supporting all these in references section. Also, please see references section for websites that help with additional resilience tools from mental health related sources.

Item number in SAFE-T Checklist	Buffering Item	Score (give client "1" if client has this item marked "yes" in "CURRENT" column)
E47	Person exercises regularly	
E48	Person maintains a relatively healthy diet (including having the resources, knowledge, social support, and access to do so)	
E49	Person uses stress relieving techniques that work for them (e.g., they can calm down after a scary event, they can "relax"; may include meditation, yoga, stretching, reading, deep breathing, etc); they have at least one of these skills in their repertoire and are socially supported to do it when appropriate or needed	
E50	Person gets enough sleep	
E51	Person receives appropriate mental health care	
E52	Person has relationship with trusted adult	
<b>Total score (from items E47-E52)</b>		


## BUFFERS SCORE

### Buffers or Resilience Factors


- 6 protective factors after trauma
- According to research
- Many could be supported by behavior analytic
- And interdisciplinary techniques




## Buffers or resilience factors




Regular exercise




Enough sleep




Healthy diet



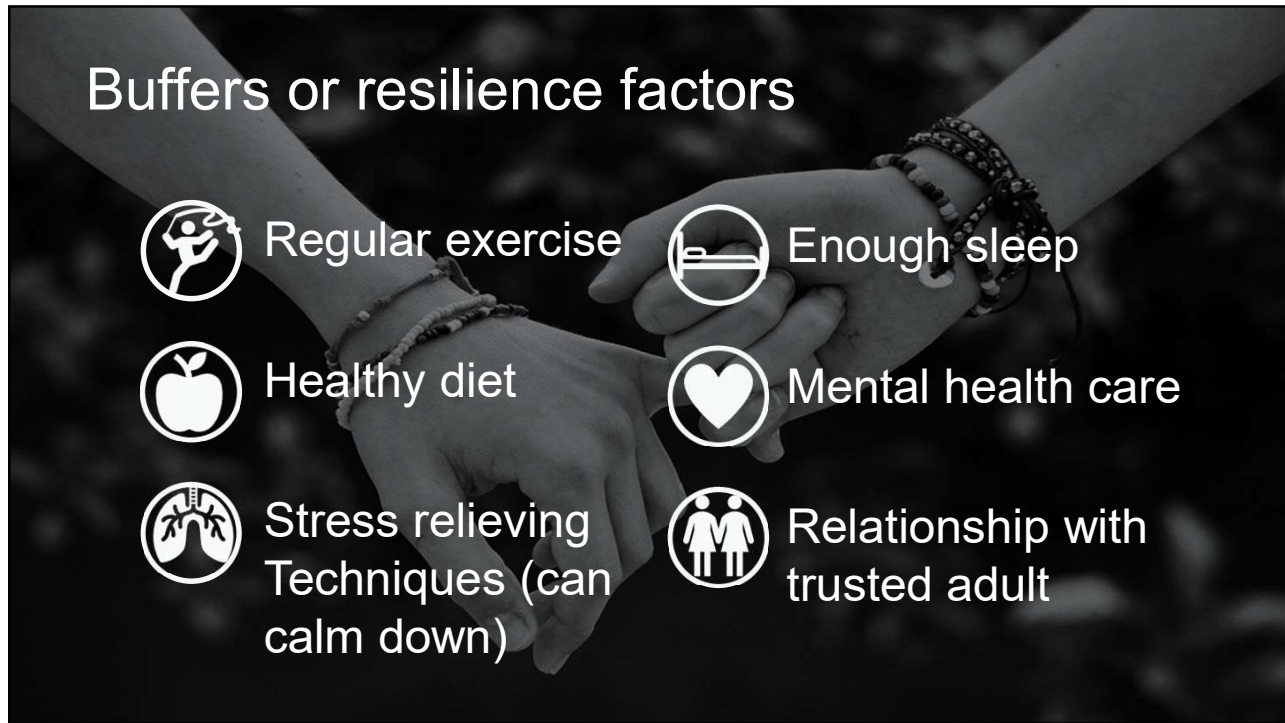
Mental health care



Stress relieving Techniques (can calm down)



Relationship with trusted adult







## Notes about the buffer “RELATIONSHIP”

- “SARA”: Safe, Appropriate, Reliable, Available
- May be at home or at school, outside school (CASA example)
- Self-reported or observed (but reports can be wrong); should be corroborated by evidence
  - Student relaxes around person, approaches (as opposed to showing fear, avoiding eyes, increasing heart rate/ avoidance behaviors, etc)
  - Student uses relationship whether things are going ok or there was bad news (got a bad grade, has to move, etc)

### LIST OF TOOLS

(ARRANGED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, LOOSELY IN ORDER OF GREATER INTRUSIVENESS AND ORDER I USE THEM)

#### Client-focused

- Client-At-A-Glance
- Role Map
- Adult Attention Preference Assessment
- I-PASS
- SAFE-T Assessment

#### Staff-focused

- 10-step Risk versus benefit
- Risk mitigation plan (see template)
- Trauma-informed FBA, BIP templates

#### Great for both

- TIPS and BIPS (trauma indicator possibilities screening/ buffer possibilities)

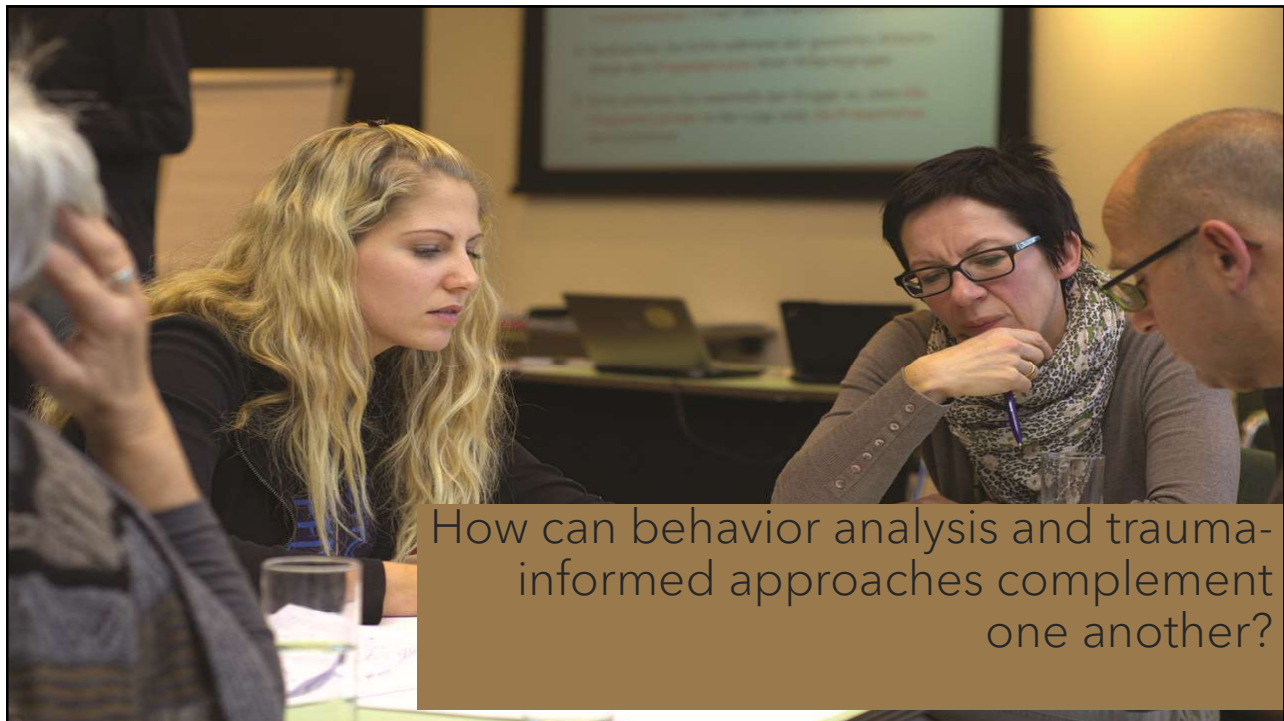
3

3. State at least three features of multidisciplinary case studies in which behavior analytic procedures are supportive components after trauma.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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## A typical collaborator question for my practice: What if trauma is suspected but not documented?

- What information can we gather?
- What tools could help?
- What techniques can we use?
- What supports and strengths can interdisciplinary teams bring?

### 3

- Administrative (and systems) support is present
- Each person participates regularly, not reactively
- Expertise, and also clinical oversight, is valued
- Input is requested and shared regularly
  - This helps risks to be shared, documented and discussed preventively
- Tools are used to facilitate collaboration and cohesion (pulling all the information about the client's background into the forefront, if and when appropriate, to be integrated in FBAs, then plans, and then in support plans)

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Features of cases in which behavior analytic procedures are supportive components of support after trauma

## HELPFUL INFORMATION TO GATHER

- What does the person avoid or find difficult? (consider **IPASS** for sensory stimuli; **attention preference survey** for attention)
- Which times of day/week/year/month are difficult?
- Information about behavior (if lots of potentially trauma related behavior, consider **screening tool**)
- Information about buffers/ preventive factors (**consider BIPS to screen for protective factors**)
- Information about what is not working (some cues might be: parenting/caregiving techniques not working; praise causing adverse reaction; prompting results in emotional responding)
- Information about the response itself (signs of conditioned responses to stimuli, non-operant behavior)
- Clues about situations without knowing the details (e.g., we know a child went through several foster placements, or was adopted and given back, or has a parent with multiple challenges)
- How are the team interactions affecting the person? **Are we contributing to problems without knowing it? Can we turn those into prevention opportunities instead?**

## What supports and strengths can interdisciplinary teams bring?

- Information about goals we need to target, but could miss because of our lack of expertise/ experience
- Supports from a systems perspective
- Listening and valuing all perspectives / a different perspective
- **Naysayers often bring a very important group of risks to consider in the risk versus benefit analysis, but these may be dismissed as “worries or concerns that don’t apply to us” if we don’t**
  - Make a time to ask for them
  - Show we value them
  - Hear from everyone
  - Document them
  - And act on them

## What supports and strengths can interdisciplinary teams bring? A few examples from my practice:

- **OT:** sensory differences; ways to design supportive sensory environments, assess sensory needs and challenges, look at pain threshold
- **Mental health and social workers:** safe place to hold the trauma- practice safe routines when it's not a challenging time; teach all team members how to support client in a crisis without re-presenting triggers; help differentiate whether a difficulty with mental health is part of a learning difference; help us learn about the client's past
- **SLP:** teach us to design communication and speech/ language goals related to self advocacy needs the student may have after trauma- honor the person's communication attempts, meet them where they are- bring in technology to help minimize the effort a student has to exert during a difficult situation – buttons, sentence strips, visuals, etc
- This works when we view each other as complementary pieces of the concerted effort to help the person after trauma.

## How can behavior analysis and trauma-informed approaches complement one another?

### ***When we collaborate, we...***

- Take into account more history (more contextual variables) that affect our client's behavior
- Provide better systems support
  - Arrange supportive environments and schedules for meetings
  - Get more input from caregivers and team members
  - Collaborate (e.g., police officers, social workers, CASA, guardians ad litem)

How can behavior analysis and trauma-informed approaches complement one another?

***When we collaborate, we...***

- Document and communicate about risks more robustly
- Consider respondent, medical, biological contributions more
- Reveal and address more sources of distress for our clients



**Before:**

- - Aniyah's principal only came in when things were pretty out of hand.
- - He calmed her down, but disrupted the class.
- - He only came to meetings when the advocate and lawyer were planning to show.
- - His "reactive approach" contributed to escalating behavior over time although suppressing it for a few weeks.
- - This was particularly true for Aniyah with rare interactions with higher level attention providers (police, principal, security guards) that were contingent on unsafe behaviors used after neglect history

## After: Preventive meeting scheduling

**Hint: Even if a particular team member's participation is much lower-frequency,**

- We can implement this strategy
- By scheduling their involvement IN ADVANCE
- Even if it's once a year, it's still
  - Planned,
  - paired with planning,
  - and supportive

**At this kind of meetings we might:**

- Talk about "plans to restore" for any restricted environment, or procedure
- Talk about roles and supports, assigning duties for next months
- Discuss appropriate behaviors and skills/needs, not just solve problems
- Document our conversation, distribute notes to all, thank everyone, and follow up

2.10 Collaborating with Colleagues Behavior analysts collaborate with colleagues from their own and other professions in the best interest of clients and stakeholders. Behavior analysts address conflicts by compromising when possible and always prioritizing the best interest of the client. Behavior analysts document all actions taken in these circumstances and their eventual outcomes

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## After:

- - NCR visits scheduled with principal/ client
- - FT visits from principal to meetings
- - Client planned with principal on calendar
- - Staff used less reactive/ emotional behaviors in meetings in front of their principal
- - Principal participated in learning list of "topics to bring up/ avoid in front of student"
- - Said he felt like part of the team and brought in additional training without us begging!

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After:

WE recognize it's our job to *teach administrators how*

- *and why*
- *THEY can*
- *and need to support us*
- *in ways they may not have realized*
- *or been empowered to do*

## Special thoughts for administrative team members:



- **Support the team!** Back up team members who need to insure our ethics are followed and team's needs are met:
- **Protect time and space** (and pay team members) for meetings
- **Follow guidelines** set to protect the client (e.g., if there's a program that asks that attention not be provided after certain events, or insure that attention IS provided regularly, try to be a part of it, be the change you want to see, not the one disruptive team member)
- **Follow guidance or team leadership** that gives pointers on how to speak to and about a client, or a parent/guardian, in their presence; know what behaviors to bring up (mention) in their presence, and topics to avoid (if the team doesn't give you guidelines on this, ask- and team members, ask a leading member to MAKE guidelines to distribute)



## Special thoughts for administrative team members: *More on following clinical guidance*

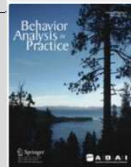
- **Honoring** everyone's need to provide input
- **Making medical recommendations** even when those are not followed
- **Establishing and honoring boundaries:** Sometimes we need to draw a line in the sand (pause a certain treatment or something that is not safe to continue without knowing more, or getting someone training, or getting someone resources)
- **Connecting** us to other resources: If you can't facilitate training, but team desperately needs it to treat this new unsafe behavior or to understand this student, please honor expertise that is requesting that, and connect us to someone else who can help
- **Working with the community:** Grow and work relationships (you won't always have everything in house, but you may be able to facilitate a connection)

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### Ethics and Supervision topic: Collaboration

2.10 Collaborating with Colleagues  
Behavior analysts collaborate with colleagues from their own and other professions in the best interest of clients and stakeholders. Behavior analysts address conflicts by compromising when possible and always prioritizing the best interest of the client. Behavior analysts document all actions taken in these circumstances and their eventual outcomes

How do we supervise team members toward effective collaboration?



Volume 9, issue 4, December 2016

15 articles in this issue

#### Refining Supervisory Practices in the Field of Behavior Analysis: Introduction to the Special Section on Supervision

Linda A. LeBlanc & James K. Luiselli

Special Section: Supervision Practices | Published: 28 October 2016 | Pages: 271 - 273

#### Recommended Practices for Individual Supervision of Aspiring Behavior Analysts

> Behav Anal Pract. 2018 Sep 20;12(3):654-666. doi: 10.1007/s40617-018-00289-3. eCollection 2019 Sep.

#### Compassionate Care in Behavior Analytic Treatment: Can Outcomes be Enhanced by Attending to Relationships with Caregivers?

Bridget A Taylor <sup>1</sup>, Linda A LeBlanc <sup>2</sup>, Melissa R Nosik <sup>3</sup>

Affiliations + expand

## Some critical multidisciplinary team members for Aniyah

Do you have these counterparts in your schools? Who else should be here?

**Educational occupational therapist:** Functioned as “safe person” on team

**School psychologist:** Assisted team to understand “triggers” and relationships to trauma

**Behavior Analyst:** Helped teachers document “behaviors out of the blue”, develop trauma-informed FBA (assessment) and implement TIBA strategies in the classroom

**Principal:** Followed preventive plan to visit Aniyah when things were going WELL, not just “reactively”, following Behavior Plan

**Social worker:** Helped provide information on A's past so that the team could move beyond guessing what she had been through and actually use information in plans

**Residential counselor:** Performed “daily staff” duties while A. waited for a foster home, communicated with school daily and informed them when things were rough at home to help educators prepare for the day and be even more preventive

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## When we consider ACES from a collaborative perspective...

### We ask our teams:

- Do we all have the same definition for ACES?
- Do some team members disagree on whether ABA provides a helpful approach?
- How do we show them we care about and listen to their concerns... and still implement what we feel is responsible for our clients?

### 2.15 We truly start to minimize risk of Behavior-Change Interventions

Behavior analysts select, design, and implement behavior-change interventions (including the selection and use of consequences) with a focus on minimizing risk of harm to the client and stakeholders. They recommend and implement restrictive or punishment-based procedures only after demonstrating that desired results have not been obtained using less intrusive means, or when it is determined by an existing intervention team that the risk of harm to the client outweighs the risk associated with the behavior-change intervention. When recommending and implementing restrictive or punishment-based procedures, behavior analysts comply with any required review processes (e.g., a human rights review committee). Behavior analysts must continually evaluate and document the effectiveness of restrictive or punishment-based procedures and modify or discontinue the behavior-change intervention in a timely manner if it is ineffective

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Typically,  
**A** = Adverse  
**C** = Childhood  
**E** = Experiences

You probably recognize the acronym "ACEs"...

- ACEs study grew out of Felitti's obesity research
- The effect of ACEs on "negative health outcomes" was dose dependent
- Individuals with 4+ ACEs more likely to have chronic bronchitis or emphysema, strokes and/or heart disease, hepatitis or jaundice, and skeletal fractures, and much more
- Many identified "negative outcomes" of ACEs exposure were behavioral, not purely medical
  - lack of healthcare utilization
  - suicide attempts
  - alcoholism, use of illicit drugs, injection of illicit drugs, 50+ sexual partners, etc

### Original ACEs Study



- Drs. Felitti and Anda
- 17,000 participants in San Diego
- Mostly upper middle class White males
- Partnership with Kaiser Permanente and CDC
- Groundbreaking

Children's Trust of South Carolina

[https://www.slideshare.net/ChildrensTrustofSC/building-community-resilience-and-wellbeing-using-ace-data?qid=b1f4672d-2bf6-4508-8277-f03b7438d1b7&v=&b=&from\\_search=1](https://www.slideshare.net/ChildrensTrustofSC/building-community-resilience-and-wellbeing-using-ace-data?qid=b1f4672d-2bf6-4508-8277-f03b7438d1b7&v=&b=&from_search=1)

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Typically,  
**A** = Adverse  
**C** = Childhood  
**E** = Experiences

But what if we assessed  
 for "adverse and aversive **conditioning** experiences",  
 As well as adverse "childhood experiences"?

**Aversive**, not just "adverse" experiences (because we care about experience with an adverse outcome, not just the "feeling" of whether something is good or bad, or whether an individual approaches or avoids related stimuli)

**Conditioning**, not just childhood, because adverse conditioning experiences can plague an adult too (think of PTSD after adult experiences)

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Aversive conditioning is a well-known phenomenon across psychology .... and behavior analysis

- It is often thought of as something done "on purpose" (and if we're not DOING it, we often IGNORE it)
- But we forget that a lot of what we THINK is positive, even "best practice", is actually aversive because of someone's history
- **So we're accidentally subjecting them to coercion and aversive control without realizing it**


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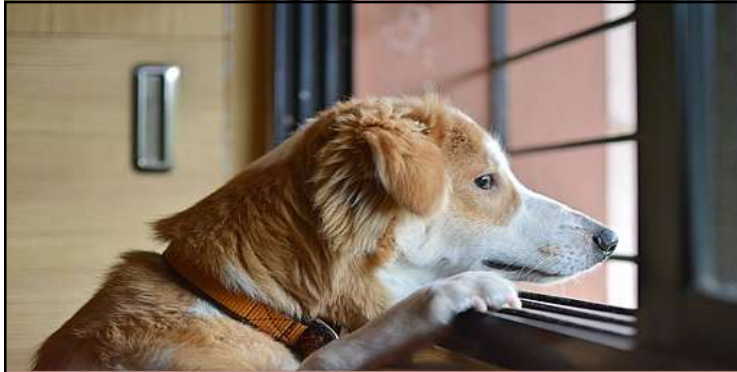
## How do the non-behavior team members *feel* when a student does not behave as expected?

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- ▶ Scared/ afraid?
- ▶ Anxious?
- ▶ At risk of "being traumatized" ourselves?
- ▶ Under-resourced?
- ▶ Worried for the student?
- ▶ Frustrated at loss of educational time when behavior problems occur
- ▶ Sympathetic for students around the individual
- ▶ **Confused about why this is happening (especially in an ABA environment where the team tried really hard to identify the function)**

Wow, no one has ever asked me that!





After doing reunification work with families whose children had been removed after abuse or neglect, observed disruption in stimulus schedules (e.g., the child suddenly interacted with typical childhood stimuli differently)

**Example:** In response to adult praise, or a caregiver's instruction, or a dog walking by, there were suddenly

- Explosive tantrums
- Aggression to pets
- Going into a bathroom and smearing feces everywhere
- Or taking food out of the trash and eating garbage

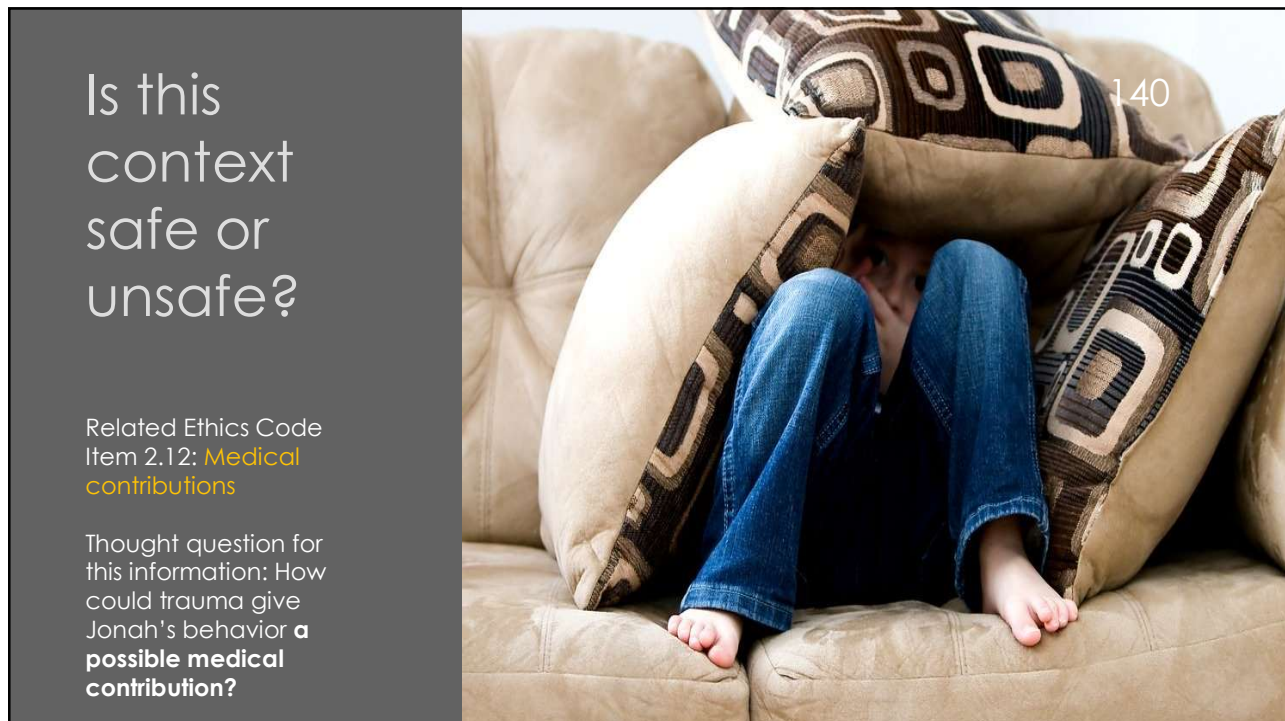
NOTE: These were children who were previously doing well (that is why the reunification process had begun)

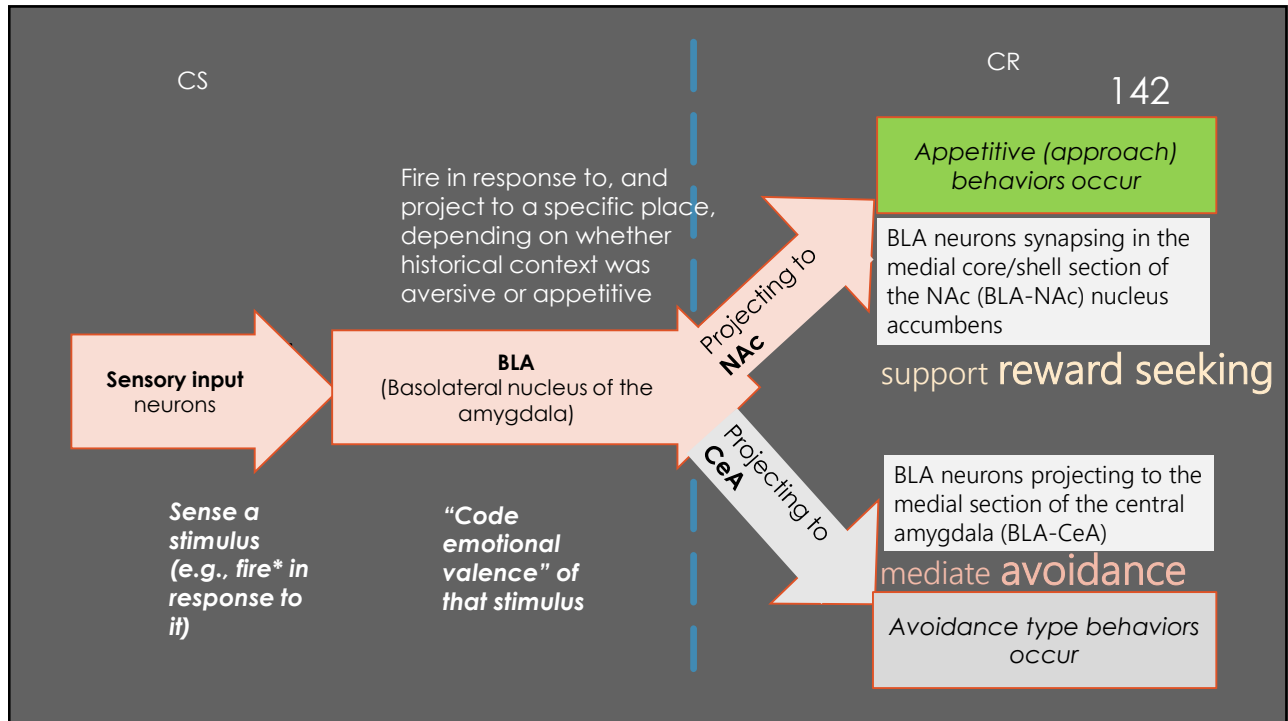
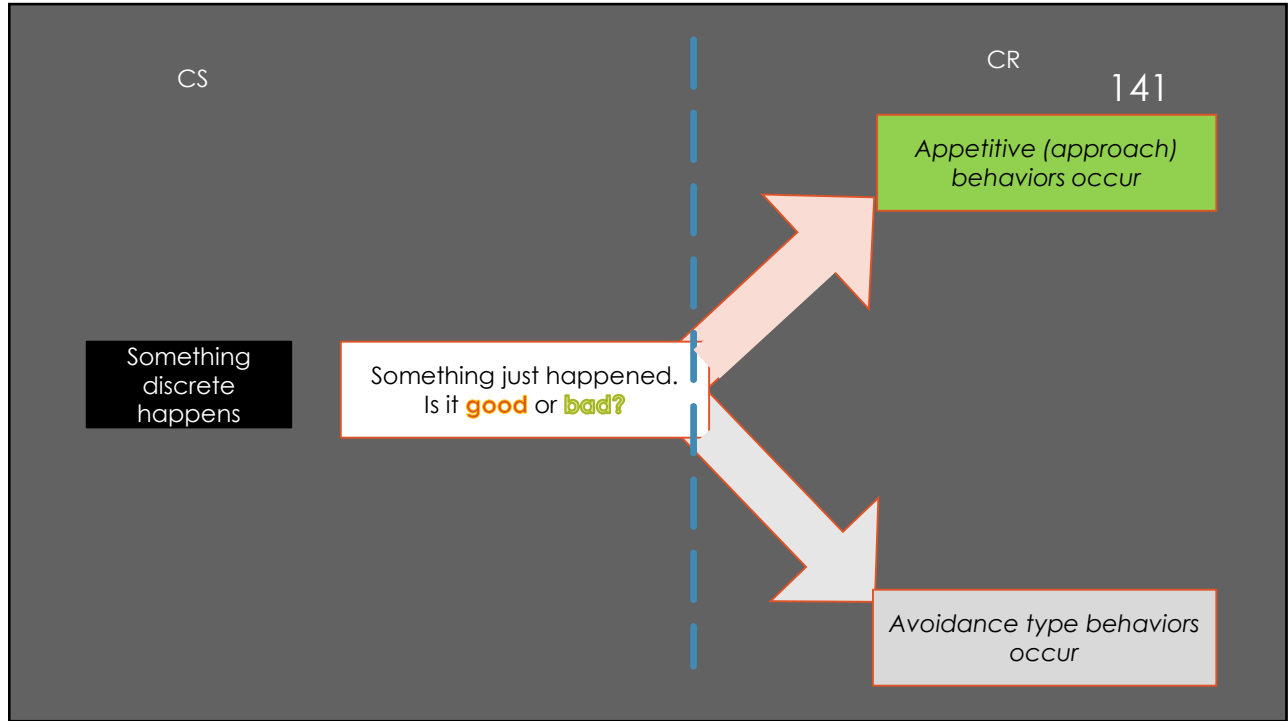
Even if it's not medical and obvious, knowing trauma has occurred (or even knowing a child is behaving as if it has)...



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Can help us be preventive AND understand why in some moments they CANNOT approach stimuli or "unfreeze" just because a teacher thinks they should or it LOOKS like nothing is wrong





In practice, knowing about the context, stimuli and responses during the traumatic history can give me ways to... 143

**-Be predictive in my risk documentation**

- Reduce likelihood of harm to others
- Be more likely to select a treatment outcome that may be effective
- Support caregivers and teachers in knowing what to expect
- Prevent painful relapse, reinstatement, renewal, etc
- Prevent **overmedicating** or medicating incorrectly (learned helplessness-related behavioral changes may be similar to presentations of ADHD and misdiagnosed)
- Be kinder during a tough episode/ situation

On the upside...

## Examples of TIBA skills for providers and clients

We often focus on skills that are more likely to be **lacking or valued** in repertoires after trauma

- **Becoming calm; mindfulness/"noticing" skills**
- Asking for **AND TAKING BREAKS**
- Communication skills (**including reporting or discussing scheduled, unpredictable, and regular "triggers"**)
- Accurate reporting (including pain)
- Playing (or using leisure skills) alone
- Asking for assistance
- Reporting misdeeds (**& ethical concerns**)
- **Using self-advocacy skills**
- **Using healthy eating habits**
- **Using healthy sleeping habits... etc**

- Singh, Singh, Lancioni, Singh, Winton, and Adkins (2010) on mindfulness training
- Article is about caregivers but applies to teachers and team members



4

4. State at least one example of a behavioral cusp and a skill that helps individuals (and team members) after trauma.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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# The behavioral cusp

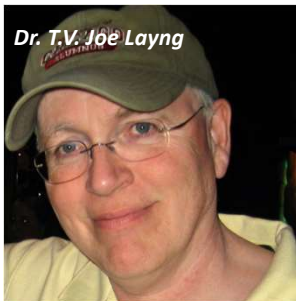


## The behavioral cusp:

*Even more powerful when combined with a constructional, nonlinear contingency analysis, approach*

- Sid Bijou (KU developmental psychologist with huge contribution to early behavior analysis) coined the term
- Don Baer and Jesús Rosales-Ruiz clarified the concept and wrote the 1997 paper
- Connects child development to behavior analysis
- A behavior change with an important contribution to future events
  - Can provide access to new reinforcing environments
  - Use in goal selection to target the really important behavior changes
  - Examples:
    - Learning to ask questions
    - Learning to read

*Pictures courtesy of researchgate*



Dr. T.V. Joe Layng



Dr. Israel Goldiamond

The Behavior Analyst 2009, 32, 163–184 No. 1 (Spring)

### The Search for an Effective Clinical Behavior Analysis: The Nonlinear Thinking of Israel Goldiamond

T. V. Joe Layng  
Headsprout

This paper has two purposes; the first is to reintroduce Goldiamond's constructional approach to clinical behavior analysis and to the field of behavior analysis as a whole, which, unfortunately, remains largely unaware of his nonlinear functional analysis and its implications. The approach is not simply a set of clinical techniques; instead it describes how basic, applied, and formal analyses may intersect to provide behavior-analytic solutions where the emphasis is on consequential selection. The paper takes the reader through a cumulative series of explorations, discoveries, and insights that hopefully brings the reader into contact with the power and comprehensiveness of Goldiamond's approach, and leads to an investigation of the original works cited. The second purpose is to provide the context of a life of scientific discovery that attempts to elucidate the variables and events that informed one of the most extraordinary scientific journeys in the history of behavior analysis, and expose the reader (especially young ones) to the exciting process of discovery followed by one of the field's most brilliant thinkers. One may perhaps consider this article a tribute to Goldiamond and his work, but the tribute is really to the process of scientific discovery over a professional lifetime.

*Key words:* Israel Goldiamond, nonlinear functional analysis, constructional approach

Israel Goldiamond must have been excited as he looked at his data. They had been very careful to follow the

How can you give more *freedom* to your client and yourself? It may help to ask...

- Are you looking at all the **contingencies**, not just the obvious ones?
  - Are there **alternatives** to switch to?
  - Do you need to be more fluent at **switching** to them?
  - Are you **fluent** at the alternatives?
  - Are these alternatives reinforcing, meaningful, and available...
- *Are you programming behavioral cusps?*



## Examples of some individualized cusps for clients after trauma

- Describe a person
  - *(a cusp for Aniyah who had been victimized repeatedly in their foster homes)*
- Tact body parts
  - *(a cusp for Cindy, who had experienced trauma and then used severe behavior avoiding all medical appointments. She used significant pain-related SIB but no one knew)*
- Successfully request assistance
  - *(identifying a person to ask; getting someone's attention; sounding assertive; asking with repetition; waiting until there is a response)*
- Using skills that help them remain in the present
  - *(noticing; cognitive flexibility)*

## Examples of cusps for trauma-healing teams

- Detecting and documenting risks/ creating a risk v benefit document
- Screening for trauma in staff, caregivers or clients
- Talking about risks
- Asking for appropriate resources
- *Talking about trauma with other trauma related professionals!*

5

5. Identify at least two examples of ACT (acceptance and commitment training) being used to support teams and individuals after trauma.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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### 3 ways ACT is making a difference in my TIBA practice

Connect others through values; connect values to goals

We've all come to **HELP**

Understand the **HURT**

Use ACT components that facilitate healing

We're here to help **HEAL**

Incorporate the explanatory role of RFT, relational frames, derived stimulus relations to help behavior analysts connect to trauma informed practices

Again, why "TIBA"?



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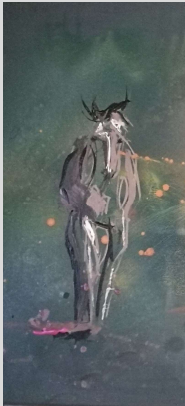
## Trauma-Informed Behavior Analysis: *Redundant Term or Useful Phrase?*



- Yes, "TIBA" is redundant! In fact, the **ethical practice of behavior analysis already moves toward being "trauma-informed" when we**
  - Collaborate and refer out when needed (2.10, 3.06);
  - individualize treatment to insure it is effective (2.01);
  - practice within our expertise (3.03);
  - use a functional contextual approach (page 5);
  - and consider medical needs and biological variables (2.12).

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## Trauma-Informed Behavior Analysis: *Redundant Term or Useful Phrase?*



### Both application and science of behavior analysis potentially cover behavior after trauma:

- ABA tackles behavior of meaningful social significance (e.g., Baer, Wolf, and Risley 1968) and treatment of behavior after trauma may be conducted in ways that are conceptually systematic with our science
- Existing behavioral interventions may be applicable and effective with populations affected by trauma
  - Including treatments for behaviors of concern that are modified using interventions based on functional analysis, schedules of reinforcement, ACT principles, etc
- Researching extinction effects (resurgence, renewal, reinstatement, etc) can help us understand challenging behavior and conditioned responses long after trauma

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The first way: Connecting

We're all here to help

<p>So we avoid working together and we fight and stay stuck</p> <p>We are AFRAID of hurting or doing worse harm</p>	<p>While we COULD be doing ..... X, y, z</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>We WANT to help</b></p>
---	--

### 5-Senses Experiencing

What away behaviors (like running) do you do?	What toward behaviors (like hug) could you do?
<b>Away</b>	<b>Toward</b>
←	→
What unwanted internal stuff (like fear) shows up in you?	Who and what's important?

**Mental Experiencing**

The Matrix  
Kevin Polk, Ph.D.

**Tool: The ACT Matrix**

**Outcomes:**

- Aniyah's team finally identified shared values
- Team embraced new goals
- Team tried new value-centered tactics

**ACT Tools for connecting:**

Matrix; values work

**Outcomes:**

Build understanding of WHY and HOW...

- Trauma-related factors still influence behavior
- "Triggers" aren't going away by themselves
- "Trauma" stimuli can be behaviorally understood



The second way: Understanding

ACT helps us understand WHY there is so much hurt

Trauma-related triggers can persist a lifetime

Things that were not originally part of the picture get “sucked in”, paired, conditioned (but not JUST conditioned... also enter **relational frames) with historical variables**)

Trauma changes medical trajectory, the brain, thinking, the stress response in the body... etc

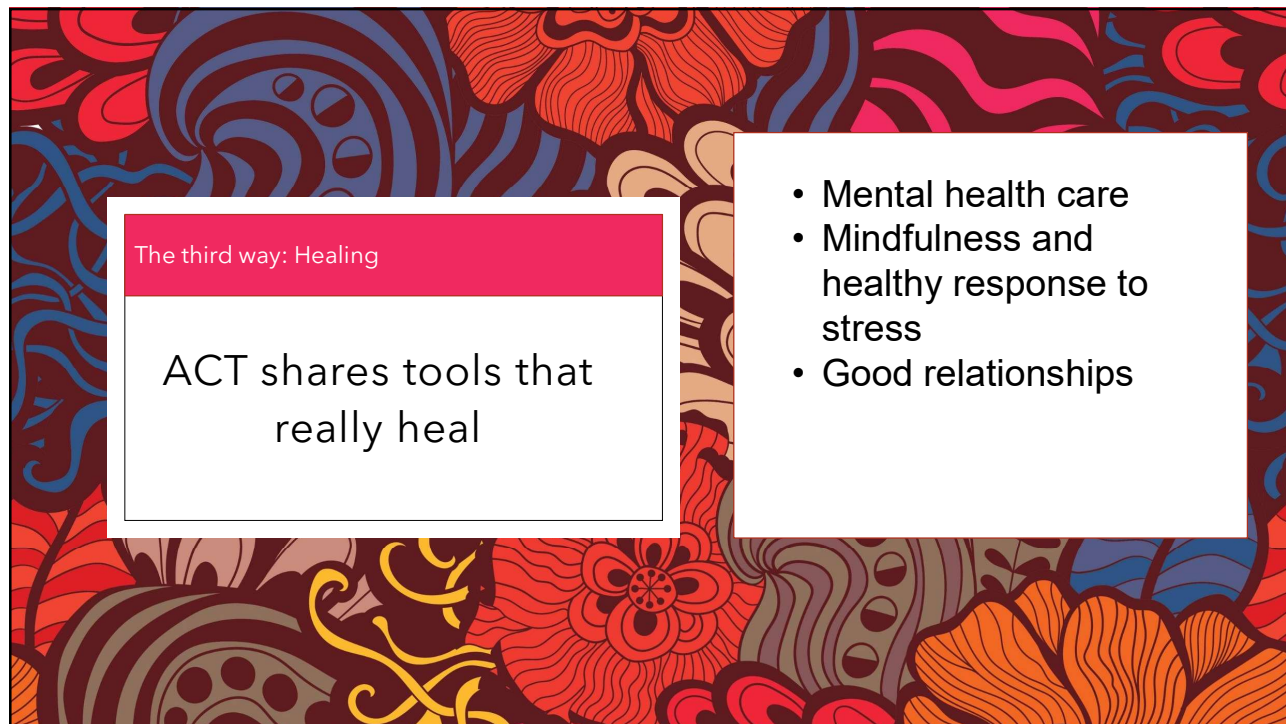
**ACT Tools for understanding:**

RFT, Derived relations, transformation of stimulus function

Outcomes:

Build understanding of WHY and HOW...

- Trauma-related factors still influence behavior
- “Triggers” aren’t going away by themselves
- “Trauma” stimuli can be behaviorally understood



The third way: Healing

ACT shares tools that really heal

- Mental health care
- Mindfulness and healthy response to stress
- Good relationships

ACES impact medical health, but there is much we can do about it



Oh et al. *BMC Pediatrics* (2018) 18:83  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-018-1037-7>

BMC Pediatrics

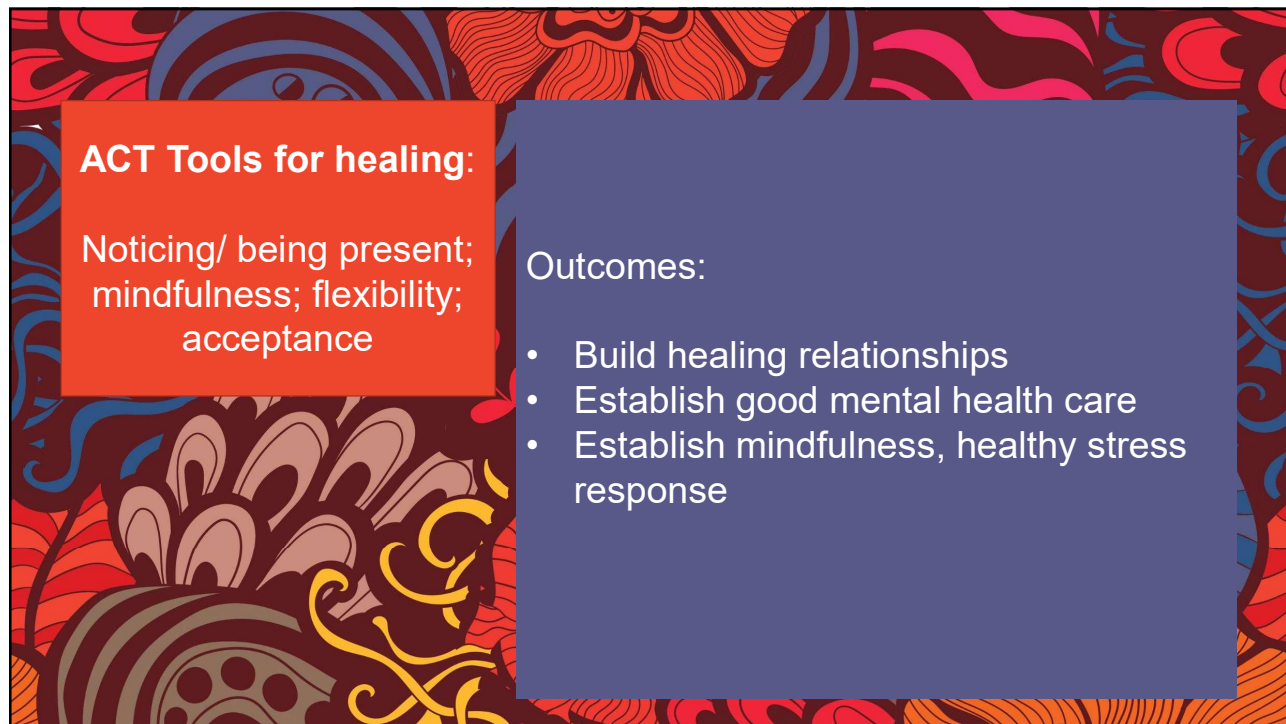
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Systematic review of pediatric health outcomes associated with childhood adversity



Debora Lee Oh<sup>1\*</sup>, Petra Jerman<sup>1</sup>, Sara Silvério Marques<sup>1</sup>, Kadiatou Koita<sup>1</sup>, Sukhdip Kaur Purewal Boparai<sup>1,2</sup>, Nadine Burke Harris<sup>1</sup> and Monica Bucci<sup>1</sup>

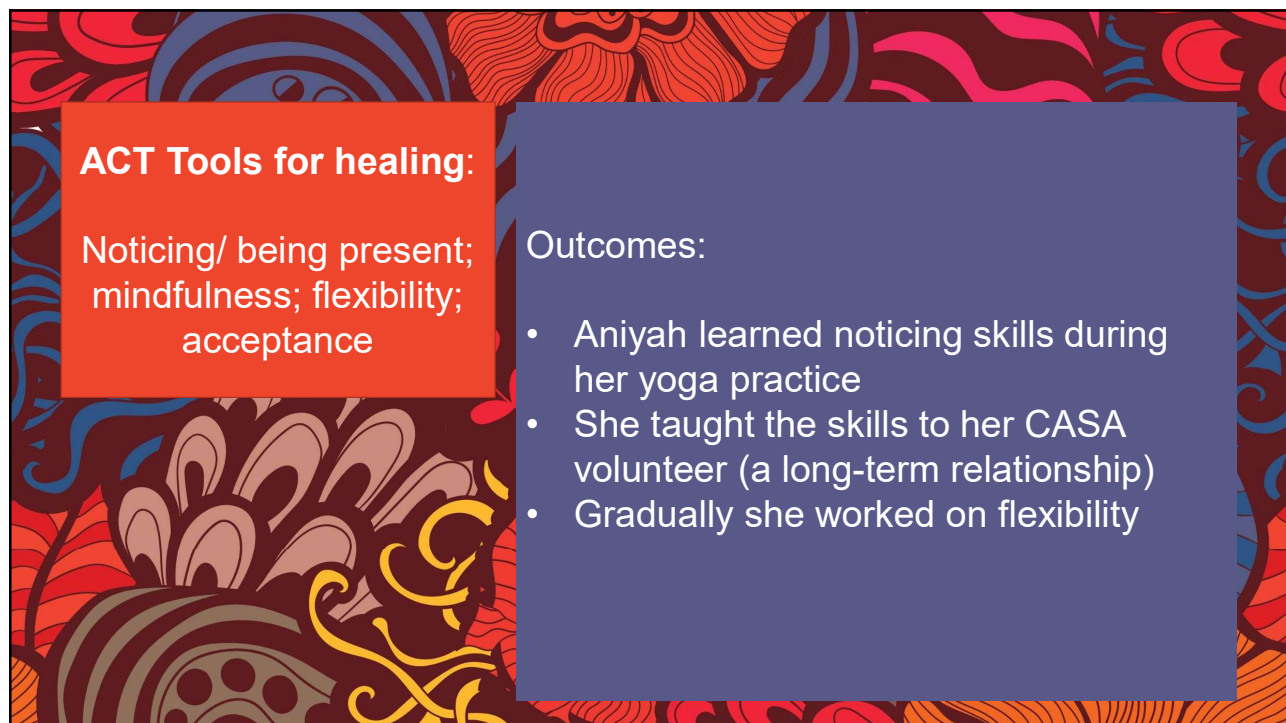


**ACT Tools for healing:**

Noticing/ being present;  
mindfulness; flexibility;  
acceptance

**Outcomes:**

- Build healing relationships
- Establish good mental health care
- Establish mindfulness, healthy stress response



**ACT Tools for healing:**

Noticing/ being present;  
mindfulness; flexibility;  
acceptance

**Outcomes:**

- Aniyah learned noticing skills during her yoga practice
- She taught the skills to her CASA volunteer (a long-term relationship)
- Gradually she worked on flexibility

6

6. State at least three examples of resources to support individuals and teams after trauma.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES



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6

6. State at least three examples of resources to support individuals and teams after trauma.


- Your behavior analytic repertoire
- Your knowledge
  - about trauma and YOUR POPULATION
  - of behavior analytic concepts
- Your collaboration with other professionals

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES




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Examples of repertoire components (and people from whom I've learned some of them)

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Dr. Shahla Ala'i

- ❑ Value and insure cultural responsiveness in interventions
- ❑ Conduct preventive behavior analysis

Shahla Ala'i, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA | College of Health and Public Service (unt.edu) 170

**You might have seen me mention screening.**

- Is it really within our scope of practice as behavioral providers to screen?
- Screen for what?
- Don't you want to know with whom you're working,
- and more about the conditions under which the techniques you're choosing, might be successful?

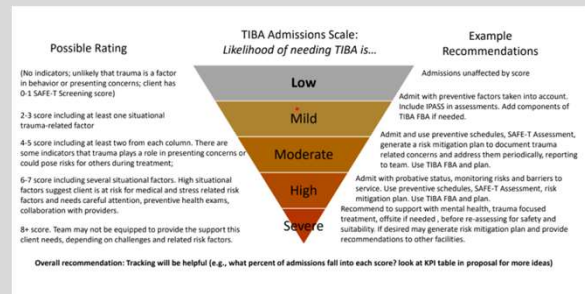
Why we screen for trauma in my practice and those with whom I consult

Possible Rating	TIBA Admissions Scale: <i>Likelihood of needing TIBA is...</i>	Example Recommendations
(No indicators; unlikely that trauma is a factor in behavior or presenting concerns; client has 0-1 SAFE-T Screening score)	<b>Low</b>	Admissions unaffected by score
2-3 score including at least one situational trauma-related factor	<b>Mild</b>	Admit with preventive factors taken into account. Include IPASS in assessments. Add components of TIBA FBA if needed.
4-5 score including at least two from each column. There are some indicators that trauma plays a role in presenting concerns or could pose risks for others during treatment;	<b>Moderate</b>	Admit and use preventive schedules, SAFE-T Assessment, generate a risk mitigation plan to document trauma related concerns and address them periodically, reporting to team. Use TIBA FBA and plan.
6-7 score including several situational factors. High situational factors suggest client is at risk for medical and stress related risk factors and needs careful attention, preventive health exams, collaboration with providers.	<b>High</b>	Admit with probative status, monitoring risks and barriers to service. Use preventive schedules, SAFE-T Assessment, risk mitigation plan. Use TIBA FBA and plan.
8+ score. Team may not be equipped to provide the support this client needs, depending on challenges and related risk factors.	<b>Severe</b>	Recommend to support with mental health, trauma focused treatment, offsite if needed, before re-assessing for safety and suitability. If desired may generate risk mitigation plan and provide recommendations to other facilities.

**Overall recommendation: Tracking will be helpful (e.g., what percent of admissions fall into each score? look at KPI table in proposal for more ideas)**

Why we screen for trauma in my practice and those with whom I consult

- Get to know your population
- Make more appropriate referrals
- Make better predictions about outcomes
- Identify needs for resources, skills
- Do less harm
- Use your training dollars more strategically
- Screening helps us prevent harm by adopting proactive strategies!



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## Possible examples of prevention:

- **Screening for diagnosis:** Identify person at risk for using challenging behavior, use preventive teaching of ways to meet someone's needs (see Ala'i-Rosales' paper on The Big Four)
- **Screening for inappropriate procedures:** Identify someone at risk for experiencing least to most punishment and restrictive settings, use preventive schedule arrangements (delivering NCR related to function normally accessed only contingent on the challenging; example with massage, police visits, principal meetings.)
- **Screening for experiences and settings:** Identify someone who has experienced sexual trauma and is in vulnerable settings; use preventive teaching of skills related to someone's needs to protect, empower them in those settings
- **Screening for risk of abusive interactions:** Identify parents at risk of struggling with behavior needs, teach parents preventive skills (Rajaraman's, Hanley's work on teaching parents; Singh's work on teaching mindfulness to staff/ caregivers)

## Dr. Shahla Ala'i

- ❑ Value and insure cultural responsiveness in interventions
- ❑ Conduct preventive behavior analysis



Shahla Ala'i PhD, BCBA-D, LBA | College of Health and Public Service (unt.edu)

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## Review of Section O:

### *Overlap between autism and trauma*

- ❑ Consider YOUR target population: What special risks might they face?
- ❑ Remember that autism confers a risk of trauma.
- ❑ Researchers have found that after trauma, people with autism may use different behaviors. These might be misinterpreted as “just their autism” and the person might be mistreated as a result.
- ❑ Researchers urge us to screen for trauma, including if the person has “a behavioral” difference or diagnosis.

People with autism are often exposed to restricted\* environments and reduced quality of life

- Physical restraint (7x more)
- Seclusion (4x more)
- Kicked out of school (7x more)

Friedman, C., & Crabb, C. (2018). Restraint, restrictive intervention, and seclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 56(3), 171-187. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-56.3.171>

Newcomb, E. T., & Hagopian, L. P. (2018). Treatment of severe problem behaviour in children with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 30(1), 96-109.

O'Donoghue, E. M., Pogge, D. L., & Harvey, P. D. (2020). The impact of intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder on restraint and seclusion in preadolescent psychiatric inpatients. *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 13(2), 86-109.

Department for Education. Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions in England: 2014 to 2015. (July 2016)



## 6

6. State at least three examples of resources to support individuals and teams after trauma.

- Your behavior analytic repertoire
- Your knowledge
  - about trauma and YOUR POPULATION
  - of behavior analytic concepts
- Your collaboration with other professionals

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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### Dr. Kim Crosland

- Consider drug side effects
- Take into account the trauma-related history of the behavior
- See her FA of runaway behavior; many articles with trauma population; see articles in Social Work journals

[ASDnet - University of South Florida \(usf.edu\)](https://www.usf.edu/asdnet/)

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## Pat Friman

- Study emotion
- Consider the circumstances of the behavior

[I Didn't Know Her Circumstances | Pat Friman \(BCBA, RBT, BACB\) - YouTube](#)

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- Practice “microshaping”
- (re)build attachment
- Learn to operationalize and provide safety, empathy



[GoldenJeannieBW.jpg \(202x202\) \(abainternational.org\)](#)

## Dr. Jeannie Golden

North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis  
Celebrating Twenty Seven Years  
1989-2016





## Dr. Greg Hanley

- Consider synthesized contingency analyses;
- See PFA/ SCA approach; HRE (value working towards a happy, relaxed, engaged learner)
- Examine "routine" components of plan and procedures for aversive qualities (e.g., Heal and Hanley 2011)
- Incorporate choice, preferences (Hanley et al. 2005)

[https://practicalfunctionalassessment.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/2018-12-10\\_2111.png](https://practicalfunctionalassessment.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/2018-12-10_2111.png)

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## T. V. Joe Layng

- Consider the alternatives the person has. What were and are the contingencies for THOSE?
- Use nonlinear contingency analysis


<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/T-V-Layng>

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“It’s not maladaptive... it’s not dysfunctional... it’s functional and highly adaptive”  
 -Dr. T. V. Joe Layng, May 2021

**Beyond Cognition and Behavior: Implications of Nonlinear Contingency Analysis for Clinical Practice**




**ABAIA**  
 Association for Behavior Analysis International



**Dr. Karen Weigle**


Define demands for YOUR client so you can present truly NEUTRAL stimuli when needed.

 THE CENTER FOR START SERVICES

**Move the Activity of the Brain**

- You want to move from brainstem, to limbic, to the cortex.
- Help person feel safe first – create calm environment
- Then try a simple, repetitive thinking task like sorting cards (by color, by number, etc.) – choose based on person’s strengths, skills and interests
- The better the emotional associations with you or the materials, the quicker the task will help clear the stress response (re-engage parasympathetic nervous system)

ed Care: ations, and Practice Applications



**ABAIA**

## Important repertoire components



DR. NADINE  
BURKE HARRIS

Understand that

- Trauma = stress
- Stress changes the body
- Stress = a medical function of behavior
- Trauma = medical function of behavior
- Trauma changes the body and behavior!

So you and I need to...

- Document medical impact of trauma
  - In our FBAs and BIPs
- And collaborate with others who care about this intersection

Gain fluency in...

- NCR (noncontingent reinforcement) schedules
- Shaping
  - While avoiding extinction when needed
- Analyzing risks
  - **and benefits**
  - of possible **options**
  - and their **short- and long-term** outcomes

“preventive schedules”; check-ins



PAPERS RELEVANT TO PRACTICE AFTER TRAUMA

- RICCIARDI ET AL. 2006 ON SHAPING WITHOUT EXTINCTION
- RICHMAN ET AL. 2015 ON NCR FOR CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR
  - FRITZ ET AL. 2017 ON NCR WITHOUT EXTINCTION

- We looked at a case study and then discussed several tools to help us understand relationships between challenging behaviors and trauma related events
- We saw some examples of how interdisciplinary team members could support a complex trauma related case
- We can use the tools (all free except SAFE-T Assessment) in our own cases to guide development of more trauma informed FBAs, behavior plans, and support programs for students after trauma.
- We have so many resources already. We are needed, and we need to show up.

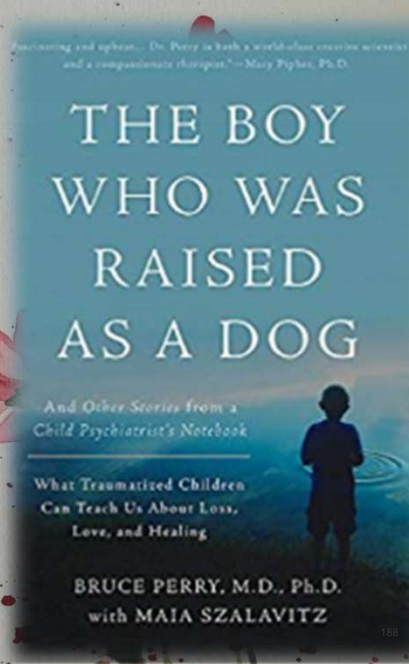
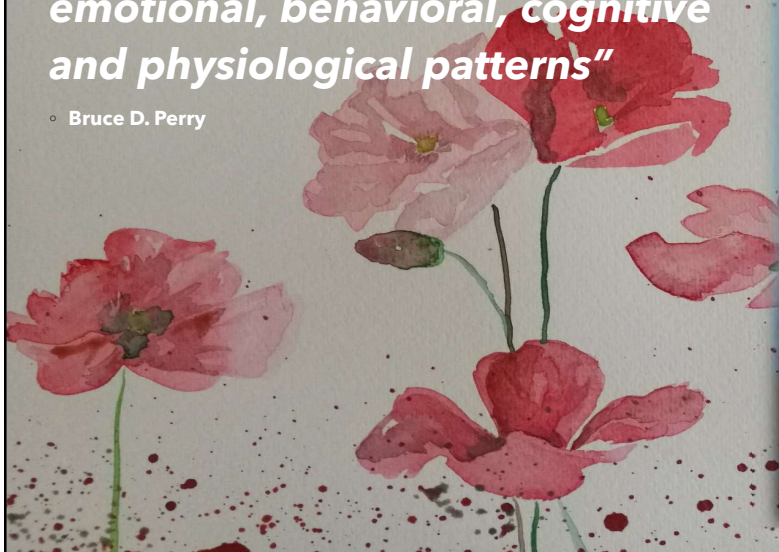
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## BRIEF REVIEW

cuspemergence.com

***We need to understand “the persistence of fear-related emotional, behavioral, cognitive and physiological patterns”***

◦ Bruce D. Perry



"Trauma-informed behavior analysis: the application of behavior analysis to treating behaviors affected by histories involving trauma, including the documentation of those histories, their significance, and related risks, in a context of rich team collaboration."

-Dr. Camille Kolu

Thank you so much for listening, NCABA!

Contact:  
Dr. Camille Kolu, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Blog: [www.cuspemergence.com](http://www.cuspemergence.com)

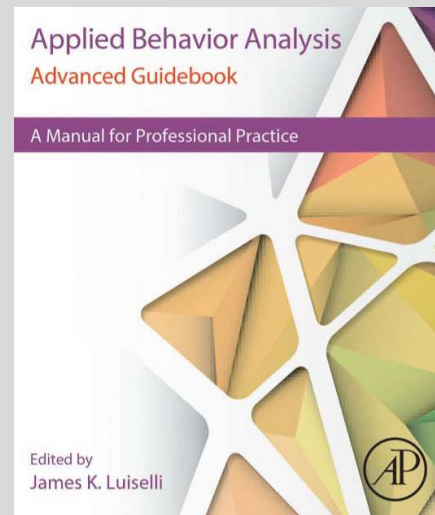
Continuing Ed: Cusp.University

[kolubcbad@gmail.com](mailto:kolubcbad@gmail.com)

## Some selected references and further reading (see next pages for articles)

### Books mentioned:

- The Boy Who Was Raised As a Dog (Dr. Bruce Perry, psychiatrist)
- The Deepest Well (Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, pediatrician)
- ABA Advanced Guidebook (Ed. Luiselli, see ch. 5 on Behavioral Risk Assessment)
  - Includes a behavioral screening tool
    - Not trauma-informed, but a good place to start when developing your own process if you don't have access to a tool that is **both trauma-informed and behavioral**
  - Discusses risk mitigation and cases in which outside specialties must be considered



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