Using FBA for Diagnostic Assessment in Behavior

Overview

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)

- Definition of FBA
  - Problem solving process used to develop hypotheses about what is triggering, reinforcing, and maintaining problem behaviors
- Functions of Behavior
  - To access (e.g., obtain or get) something
  - To avoid or escape something

What Are the ABCs?

- Antecedent – events that happen BEFORE a behavior (slow vs. fast triggers)
- Behavior -- Action or event that is observable, measurable, and repeated
- Consequence – events that happen AFTER a behavior (reinforcement / punishment)

Levels of Diagnostic Assessment (FBA):

- Informal
  - Archival Review (e.g., review of school records or documents related to behavior concerns); Problem-solving meeting (e.g., ERASE)
- Indirect / Simple
  - Functional Assessment Checklist; Functional Assessment Interview
- Complex
  - A-B-C Data; Structured, Direct Observation
  - Functional assessment, functional analysis of behavior, functional behavior analysis

Steps for Conducting FBAs:

- Functional Assessment Interview
  - Part A: Identify goals and outcomes
  - Part B: (Operationally) Define target behavior
  - Part C: Identify antecedent and consequent events
  - Part D: Schedule review – focus on summary and hypothesis formation