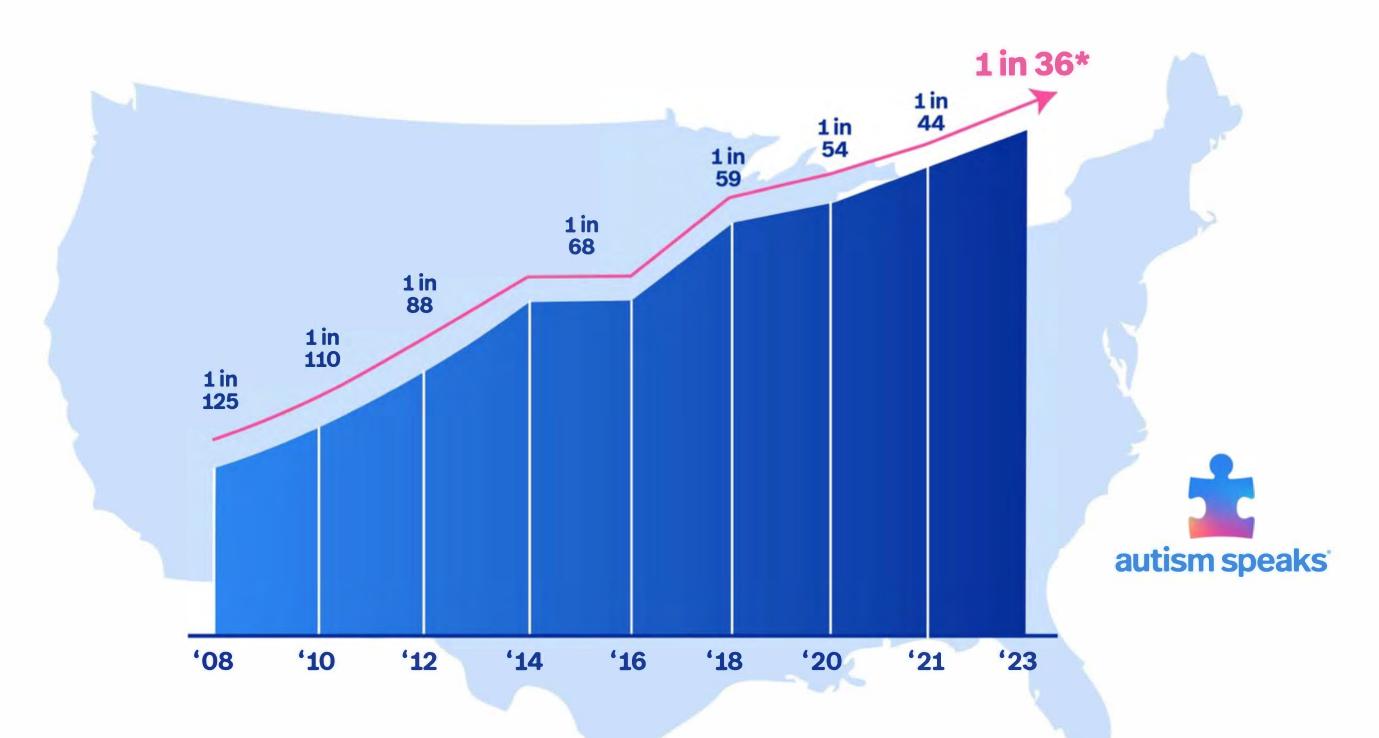
Autism & Severe Behaviors

ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT

ASHLEY M. FUHRMAN, PH.D., BCBA-D



Estimated Autism Prevalence 2023



EMBRACE DIFFERENCES













What is Profound Autism?

The term profound autism includes autistic people who cannot be left alone, requiring 24-hour access to an adult caregiver throughout their lives.

People with profound autism also experience one or both of the following:

- mimimal or no language;
- substantial intellectual disability.



What is Profound Autism?

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How Many People Have Profound Autism?

According to a prevalence study published by the Centers for Disease Control in 2023, 26.7% of people with autism have profound autism

1 in 4 people with autism has profound autism





What is Profound Autism?

The term profound autism includes autistic people who cannot be left alone, requiring 24-hour access to an adult caregiver throughout their lives.

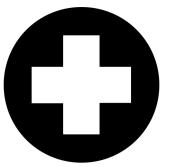
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SEVERE BEHAVIOR

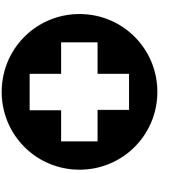
Places self or others in environment at imminute risk of harm



SEVERE BEHAVIOR

- Self-injurious behavior
- Aggression
- Property destruction
- Pica
- Elopement

Places self or others in environment at imminute risk of harm





SEVERE BEHAVIOR

- Self-injurious behavior
- Aggression
- Property destruction
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CARE FOR THE CARE SPECTRUM

Increasing service availability for children with no or mild severe behavior

Very limited options and long waiting lists for individuals who engage in severe behavior

The Service Gap for Individuals with Severe Challenging Behaviors



















RUTGERS HEALTH









HIGHER NEEDS FOSEVERE BEHAVIOR

On average an individual with severe behavior:

The Service Gap for Individuals with Severe Challenging Behaviors



HIGHER NEEDS FOSEVERE BEHAVIOR

On average an individual with severe behavior:

- Is a 16-year-old male
- Lives at home with their family
- Engages in aggression, non-compliance, self-injurious behavior and/or property destruction

The Service Gap for Individuals with Severe Challenging Behaviors



HIGHER NEEDS FOSEVERE BEHAVIOR

On average an individual with severe behavior

- Exhibits these behaviors daily
- Is currently not improving
- Due to these behaviors, the family's participation in social and other family events is very limited or nonexistent

The Service Gap for Individuals with Severe Challenging Behaviors





Hwareness Acceptance Harloss AND Havocacy

Acceptance



A scientific discipline concerned with developing techniques based on the principles of learning and applying these to change behavior of social significance

- Skill acquisition
- Behavior reduction

- Reinforcement
- Antecedent-based interventions
- Extinction
- Response interruption and redirection

- Differential reinforcement
- Functional communication training
- Prompting
- Picture Exchange Communication System
- Self management

- Assessment
 - Identify "function" or the reason why the behavior occurs
- Treatment
 - Teach replacement behaviors
 - Caregiver collaboration, generalization, maintenance

- Teach replacement behaviors
 - Communication and functional skills
 - Social skills
 - Self-regulation skills
- Teach in non-escalated and positive situations and regularly

- Respond calmly to the severe behaviors
 - Teach that safe behaviors are effective ways to communicate

CRISIS PLANNING

- Define behaviors, triggers/antecedents
- Strategies for staying safe
- Key contact information
- Nearby facilities if ER visit may be necessary



VOCAL

MODEL

PHYSICAL





VOCAL

instruct

MODEL

PHYSICAL









instruct

MODEL

Show

PHYSICAL







3-SIE prompting

VOCAL

Show PHYSICAL / /









VOCAL

Provide an instruction

5 sec

MODEL

Model compliance with the instruction

5 sec

PHYSICAL

Use least to most physical guidance to follow-through with the instruction







VOCAL

Provide an instruction

5 sec

MODEL

Model compliance with the instruction

5 sec

PHYSICAL

Use least to most physical guidance to follow-through with the instruction

high-quality praise



VOCAL

Provide an instruction

5 sec

MODEL

Model compliance with the instruction

/ 5 sec

PHYSICAL

Use least to most physical guidance to follow-through with the instruction

3-STEP prompting

VOCAL

Provide an instruction

5 sec

MODEL

Model compliance with the instruction

/ 5 sec

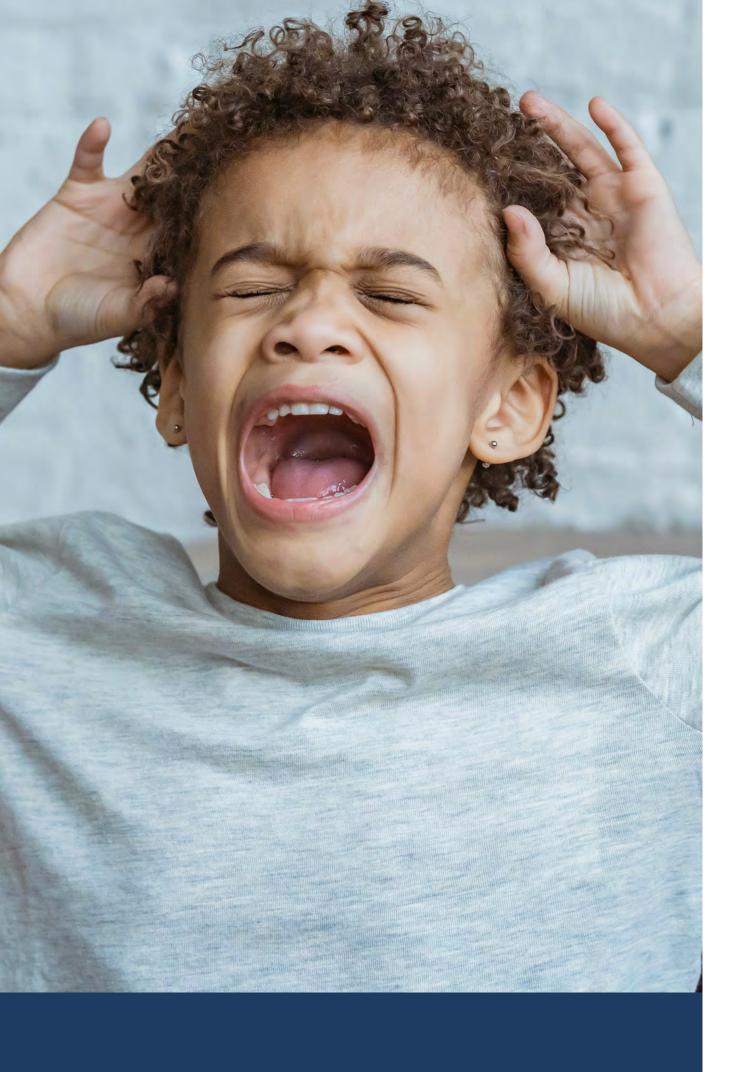
PHYSICAL

Use least to most physical guidance to follow-through with the instruction



CONSIDERATIONS

- Medical
- Clinical
- Environmental
- Safety





- 2:1 staffing ratio
- 5 days a week, 3 to 7 hrs/day
- High case supervision
- Specialized environment
- High caregiver collaboration



TRAINING Longions

- Data collection
 - Precise data collection
 - Topography specific
 - Reinforcement present or absent
 - Interresponse times, latency, time of day,

ABC, etc.





- Graphing
 - Creating
 - Updating
 - Analyzing





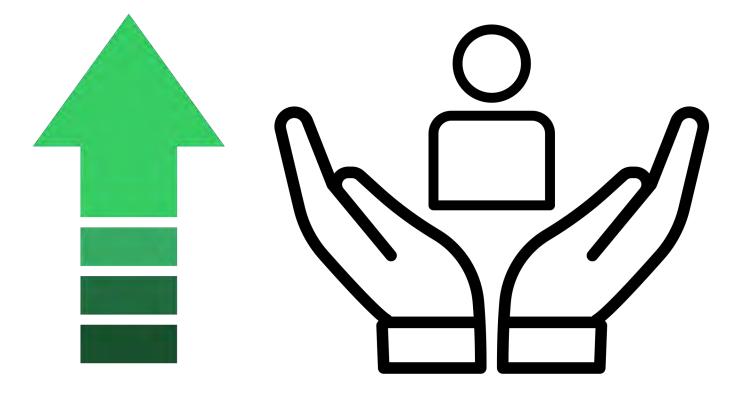


Time Start	Time End	Out of Session (Tally)						Transitions (Tally)			Bathroom (Tally)				Affect (MTS)**	Caregiver Collab.
		Agg	SIB	Prop Dest.	Elope	Flop	Mand	w/Sev Beh.	w/out Sev Beh.	Sev Beh.	Urine Toilet Void	BM Toilet Void*	Incont (U or BM)	Sev. Beh.	Yes (+) Neut (/) Neg (-)	Check if training occurred
8:30	9:00															
9:00	9:30								,							
9:30	10:00															
10:00	10:30															
10:30	11:00															
11:00	11:30															
11:30	12:00															
12:00	12:30															
12:30	1:00															

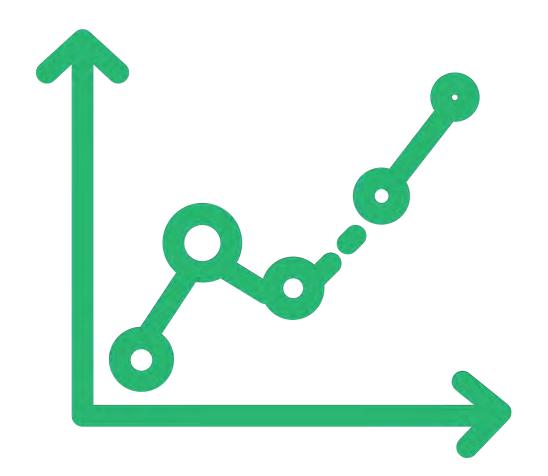
CLINICAL tonsiderations

MENTORSHIP

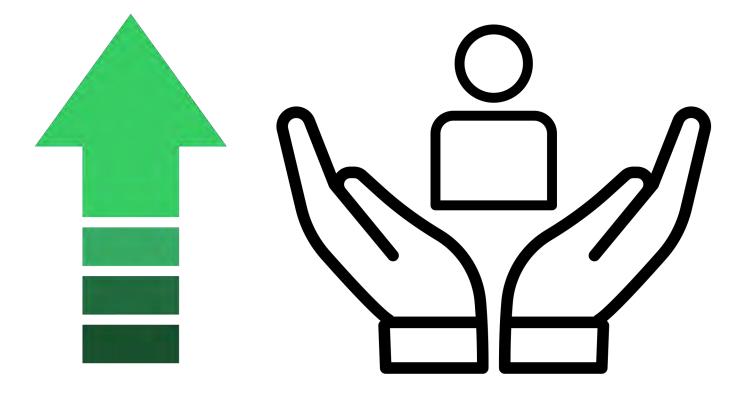




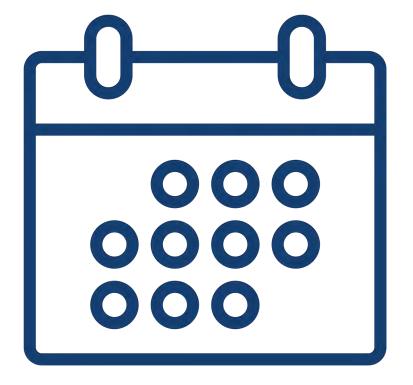
- Increased clinical supervision
 - Hourly data updates and RBT supervision



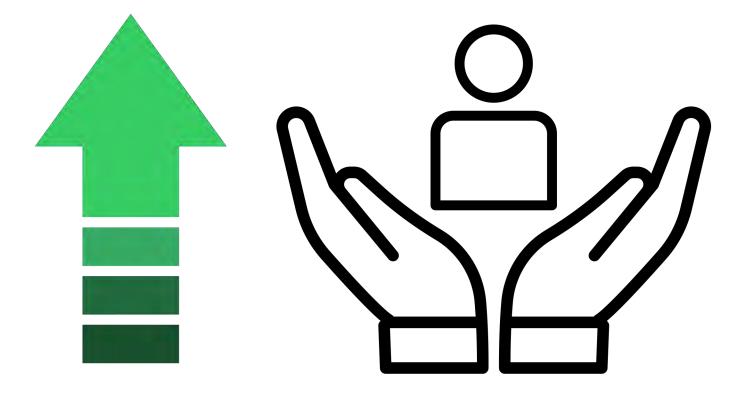




- Increased clinical supervision
 - Hourly data updates and RBT supervision
 - Daily local supervision by Clinical Director







- Increased clinical supervision
 - Hourly data updates and RBT supervision
 - Daily local supervision by Clinical Director
 - Weekly group supervision with senior director





- Increased clinical supervision
 - Hourly data updates and RBT supervision
 - Daily local supervision by Clinical Director
 - Weekly group supervision with senior director
 - Monthly all clinical group supervision





- Clinical Supervision
 - Video cameras

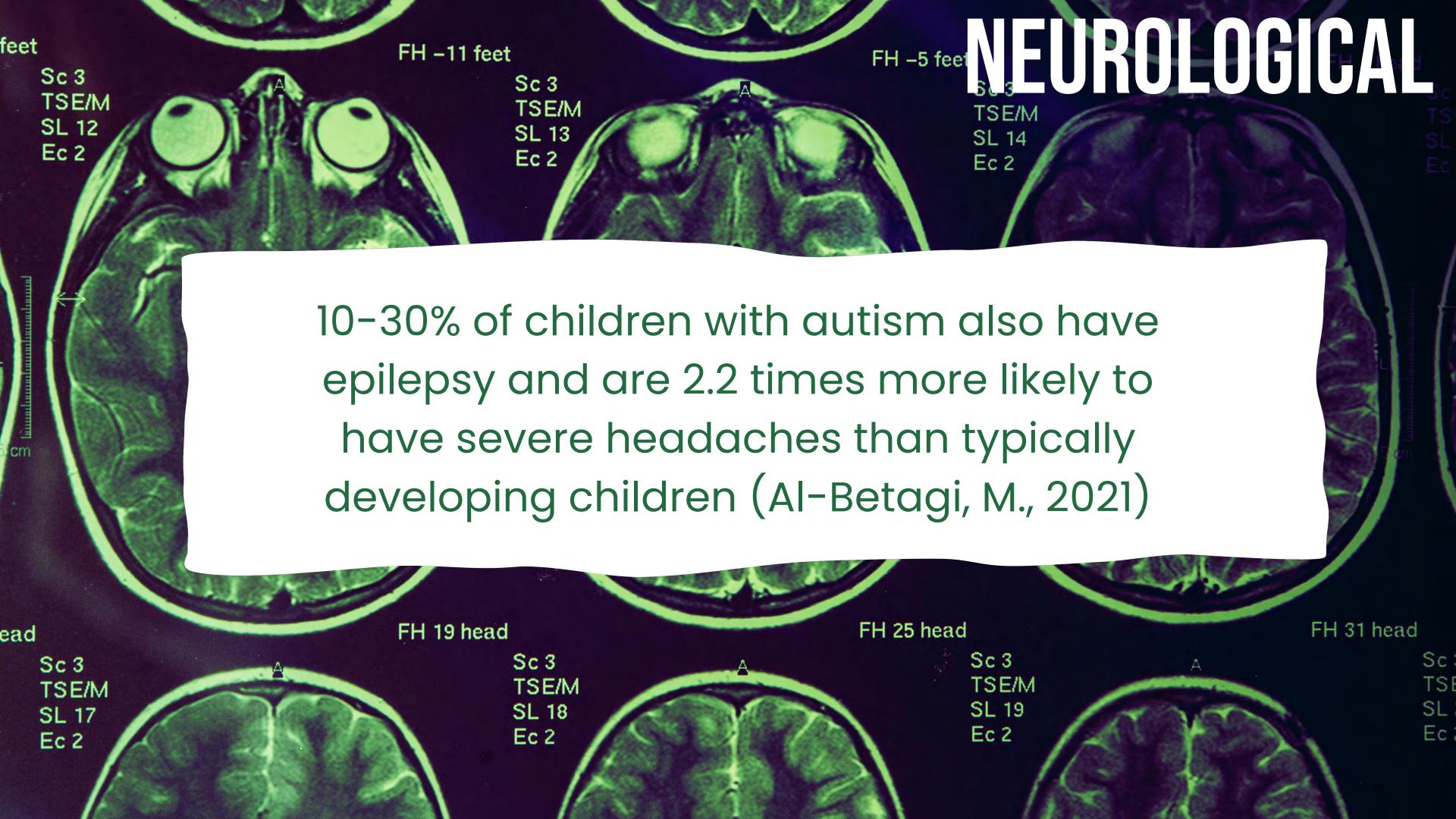
- Chat spaces
- On call support





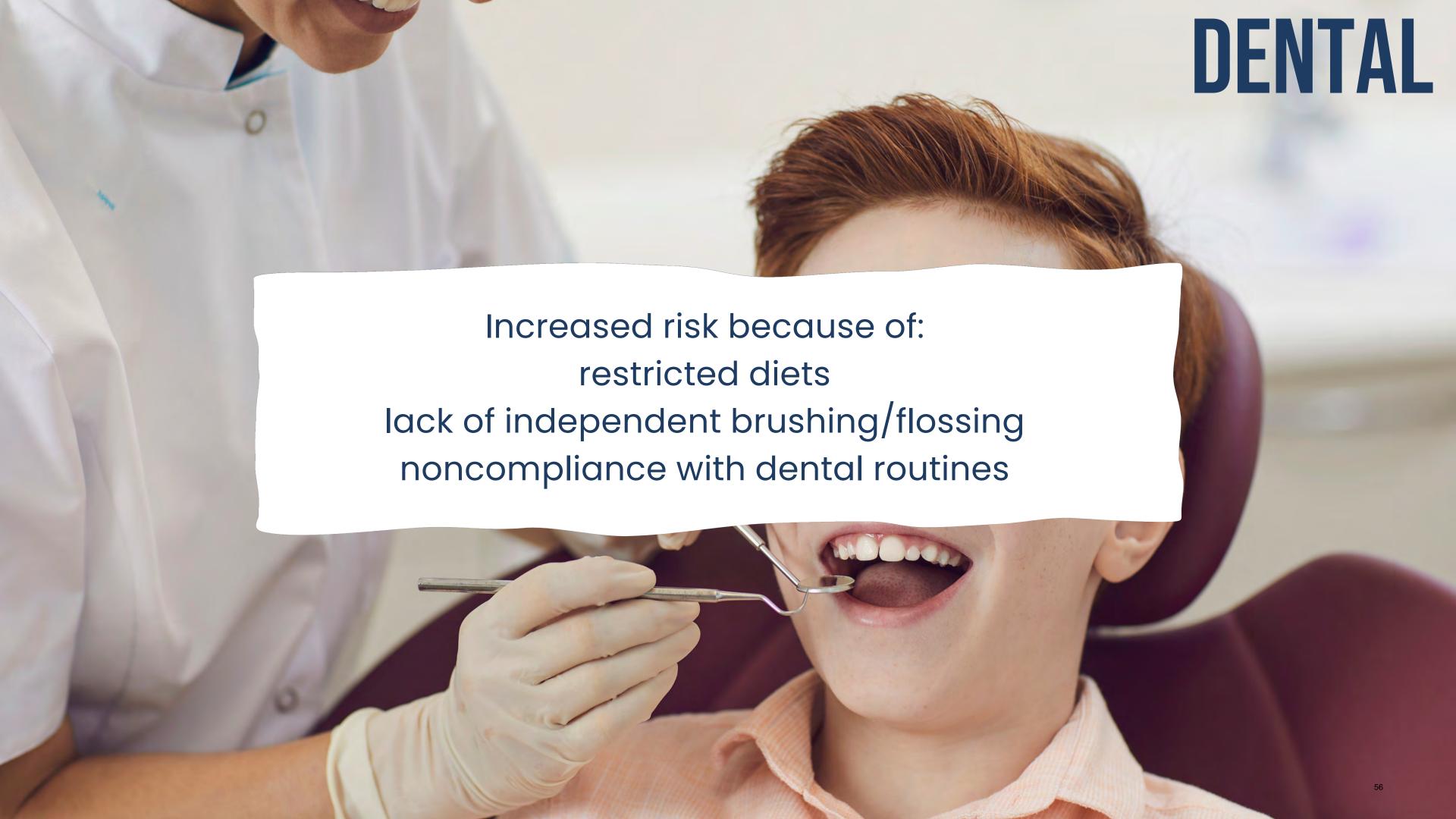
CO-MORBID MEDICAL Conditions

HEALTH CHECK **GENERAL INFORMATION** FULL NAME STREET ADDRESS BIRTH DAY EMAIL ADDRESS HOME PHONE OTHER PHONE CLICK







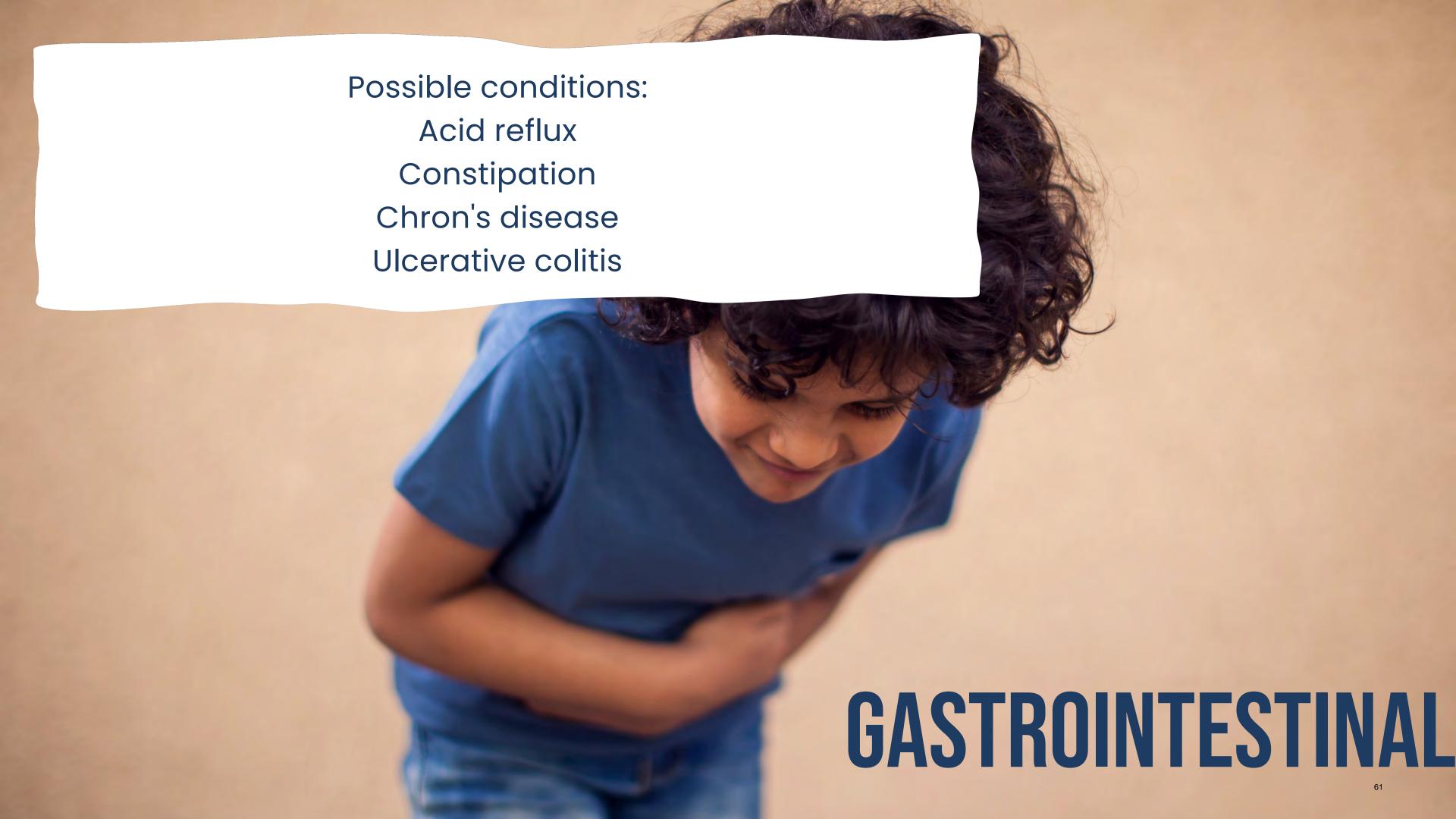














DERMATOLOGY

Children with autism are 1.6 times more likely to have eczema or skin allergies than typically-developing children (Al-Beltagi, M., 2021).





ALLERGIST

Children with autism are 1.8 times more likely to have asthma or a food allergy (Al-Beltagi, M., 2021).

MEDICATIONS







Behav Anal Pract. 2020 Mar; 13(1): 240-246.

Published online 2019 Feb 4. doi: 10.1007/s40617-019-00342-9

PMCID: PMC7070105

PMID: 32231986

Addressing Medical Issues in Behavior Analytic Treatment

Linda Copeland¹ and Gregory Buch^{™2}

Functional analysis of episodic self-injury correlated with recurrent otitis media

M F O'Reilly 1

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 9103992 PMCID: PMC1284030 DOI: 10.1901/jaba.1997.30-165

A Call to Action: The Need for Advocacy in Healthcare Access in Autism

By: Tracy Kettering, PhD, BCBA-D | Bancroft | | | Rider University | Ashley Fuhrman, PhD, BCBA-D | Trumpet Behavioral Health | Christopher Perrin, PhD, BCBA-D | Bancroft | | | Rider University

January 2nd, 2023

access to healthcare, accommodations, advocacy, co-occurring conditions, collaboration, diagnosis, healthcare, healthcare professionals, training, Winter 2023 Issue

Self-injurious behavior within the menstrual cycle of women with mental retardation

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Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts

The Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts (Code) replaces the Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts (2014). All BCBA and BCaBA applicants and certificants are required to adhere to the Code effective January 1, 2022.

2.12 Considering Medical Needs

Behavior analysts ensure, to the best of their ability, that medical needs are assessed and addressed if there is any reasonable likelihood that a referred behavior is influenced by medical or biological variables. They document referrals made to a medical professional and follow up with the client after making the referral.



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Health Condition Co-Morbidities in Children with Autism and Their Association with **Challenging Behavior**

ORIGINAL PAPER | Published: 15 February 2024 (2024) Cite this article

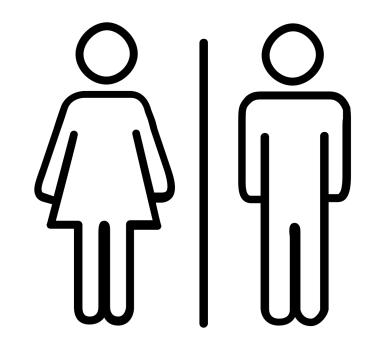
Craig H. Kennedy , Tania B. Huedo-Medina, Jennifer Twachtman-Bassett, Louisa Kalsner, Remei Areny-Joval & Inge-Marie Eigsti

> Results Analyses revealed three significant clusters of health conditions: (a) allergies/sinus infections and respiratory illness/ not asthma; (b) gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), constipation, and epilepsy/seizures; and (c) headache/migraine and sleep dysregulation. Group comparisons and effect sizes of individual health conditions showed associations among (i) GERD and aggression and self-injury and (ii) sleep dysregulation and aggression and self-injury.

> Conclusions Our findings suggest that children with autism may have higher rates of common health conditions than found in the general pediatric population, that health conditions may cluster among individuals, and that some health conditions (GERD and disordered sleep) were associated with increased levels of self-injury and aggression. These data call for more attention to the mechanisms contributing to health conditions, and their cooccurrence with challenging behaviors, in children with autism.



- Collect data daily
 - Bathroom (urination, stool)
 - Bristol stool chart
 - Affect
 - Emesis/rumination
 - Medication changes







- Provide data sheets for caregivers & graph
 - Bathroom (urination, stool)
 - Bristol stool chart
 - Sleep log
 - Medication log

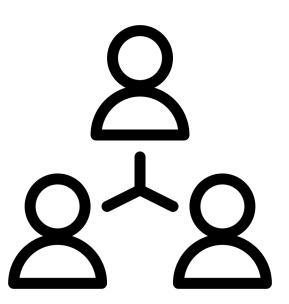
ter for Pediatric Sleep Disorders		
	PRISMAHEALTH Children's Hospital	
	DOB:	

DOB:

| Formula | Formula

Sleep Log





- Closely coordinate care with medical providers
 - Share data
 - Attend appointments
 - Help advocate
 - Medical referral template letter

Services based on individual

- Preferences
- Existing strengths
- Client and caregiver goals for services
- Age and natural environment

Individualizing means taking the time to ask about and learn those preferences and circumstances regularly throughout a service relationship

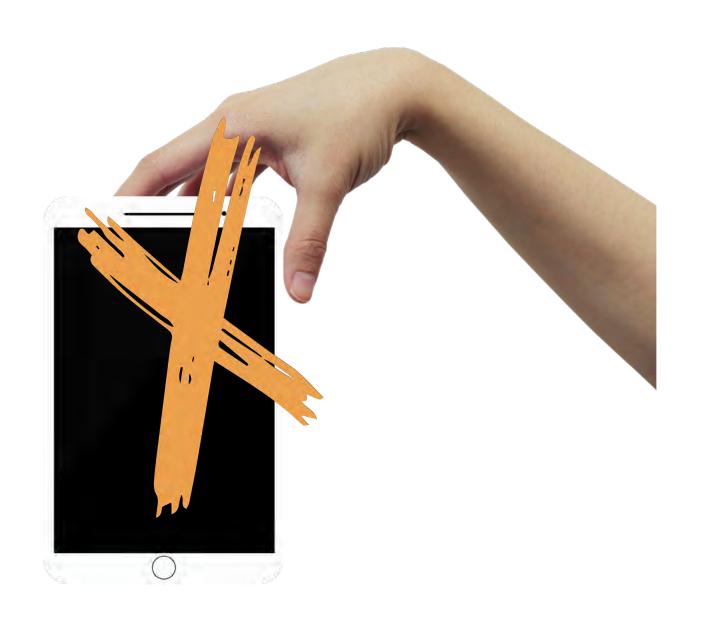


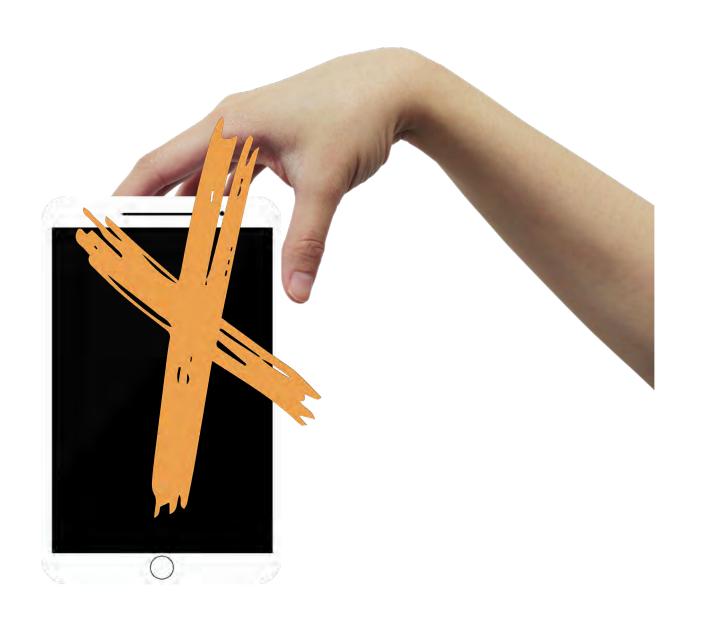
Goals should be designed such that they are individualized, attainable, and have a low likelihood of evoking emotional or challenging behavior

Slowly increase those goals over time and take steps back as needed



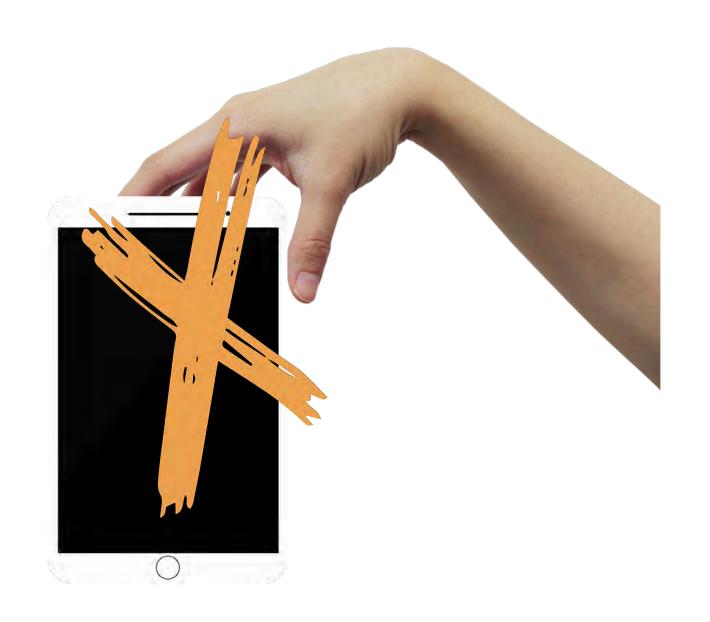


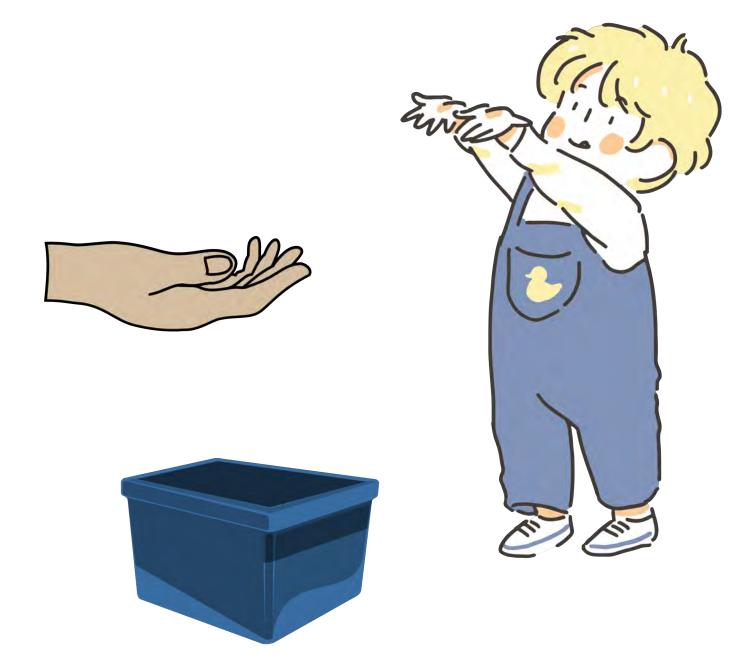


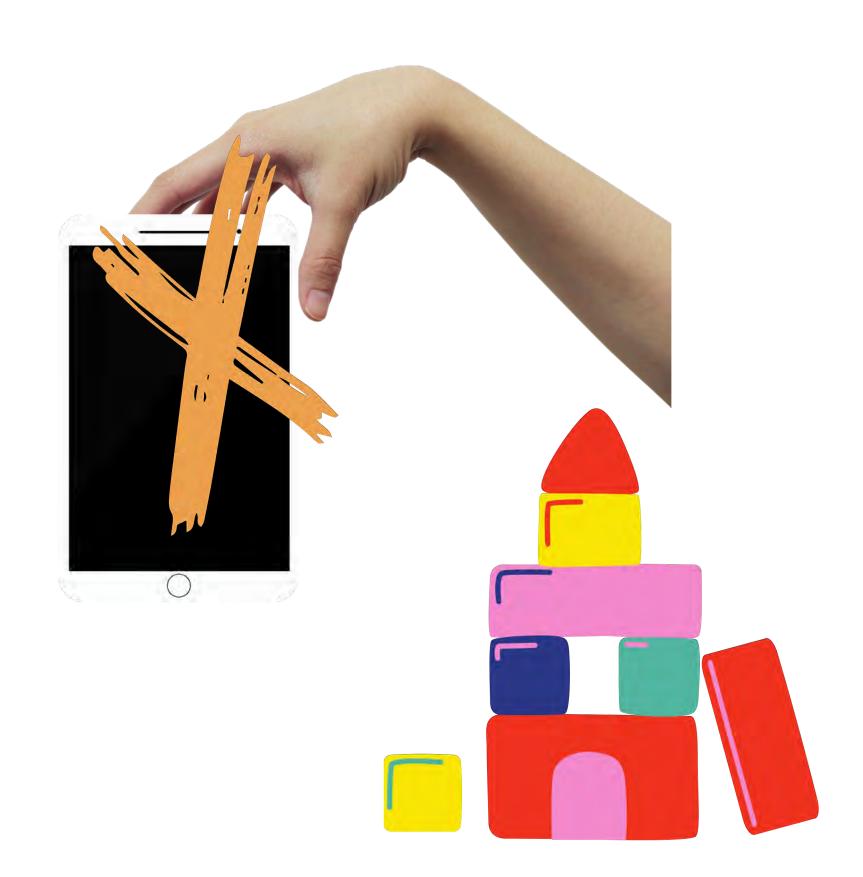


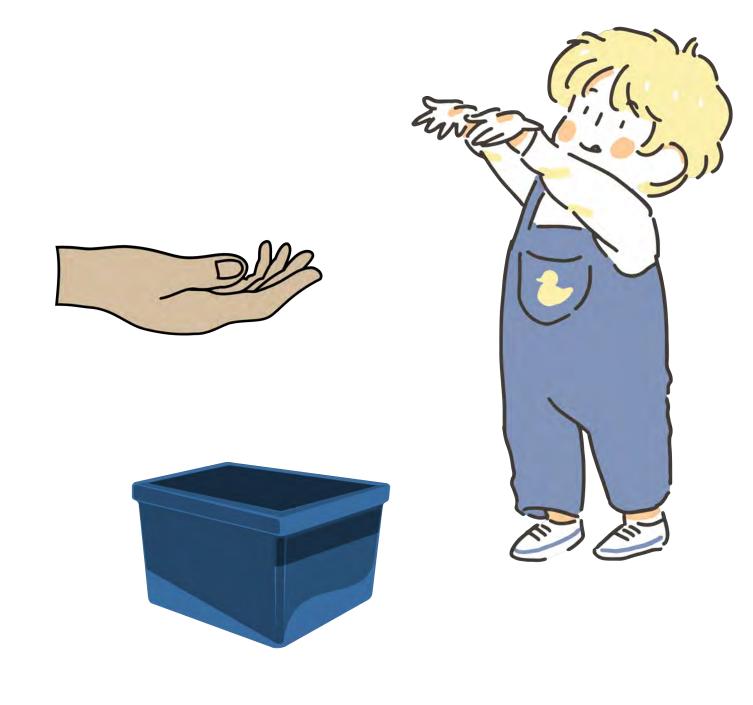


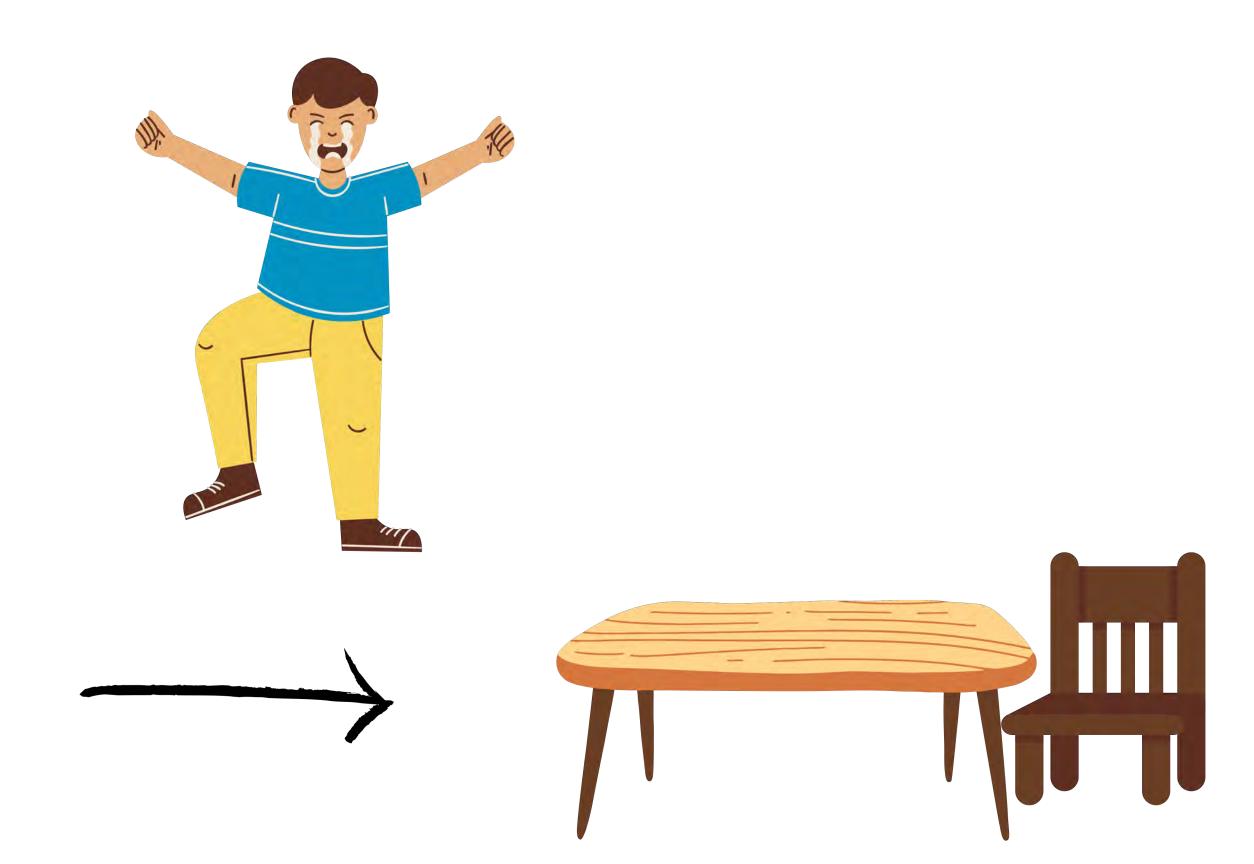








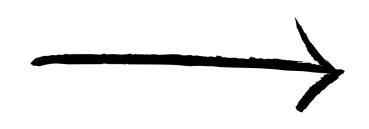




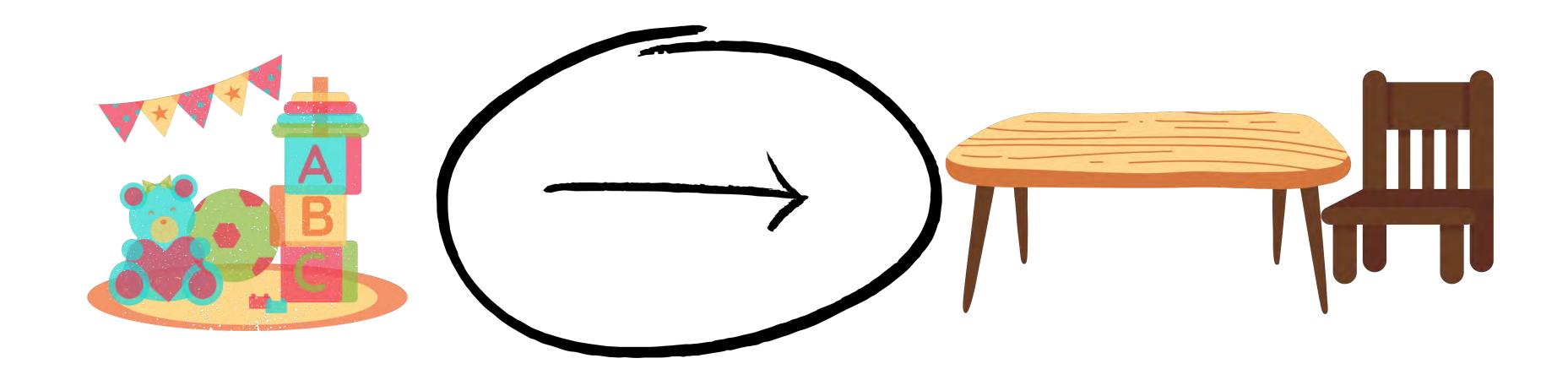


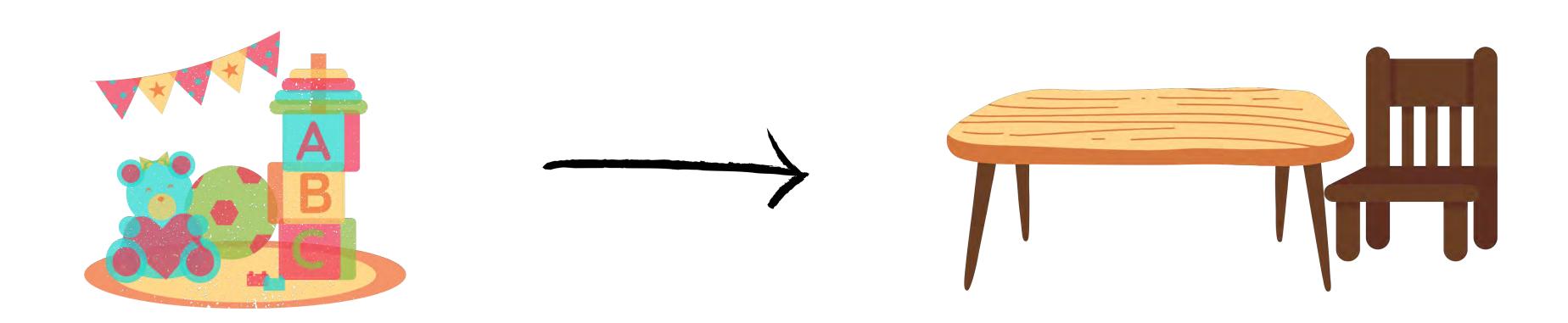








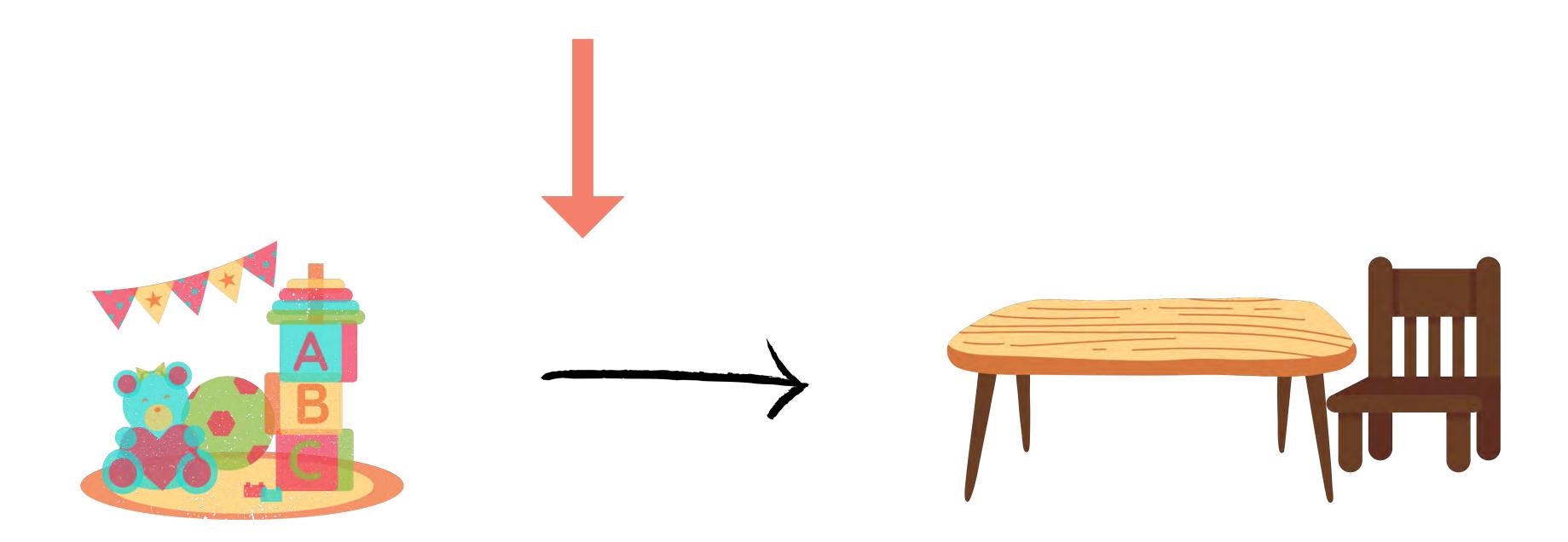


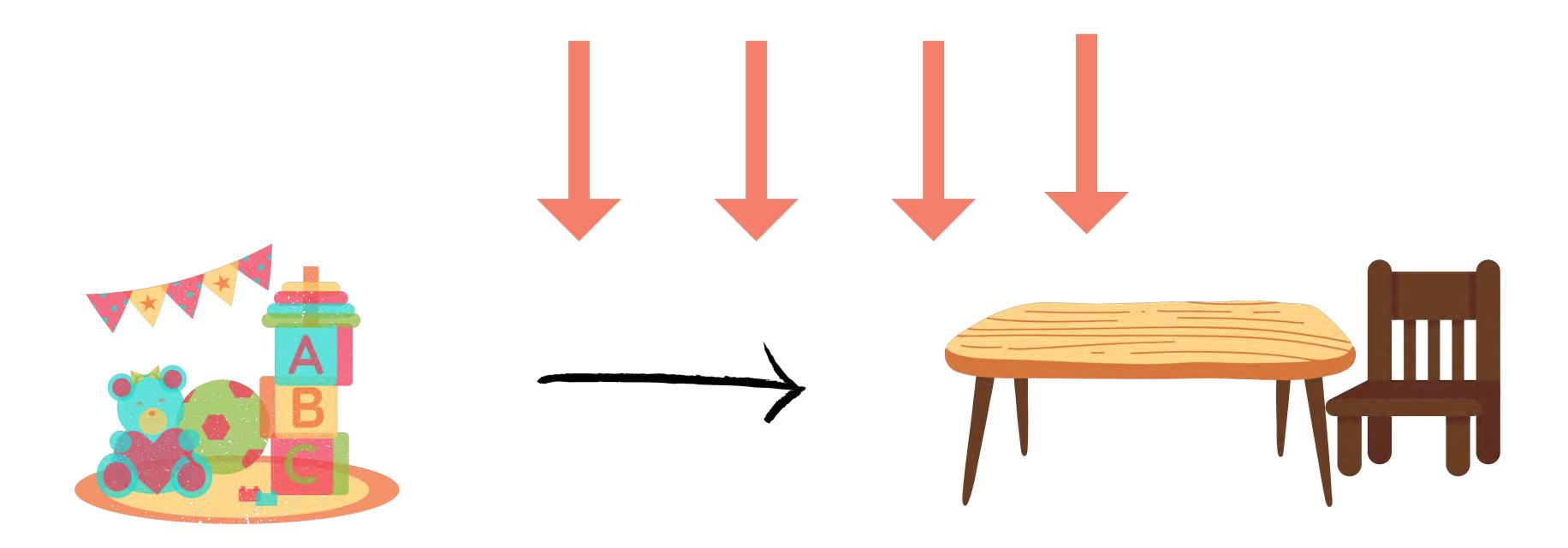


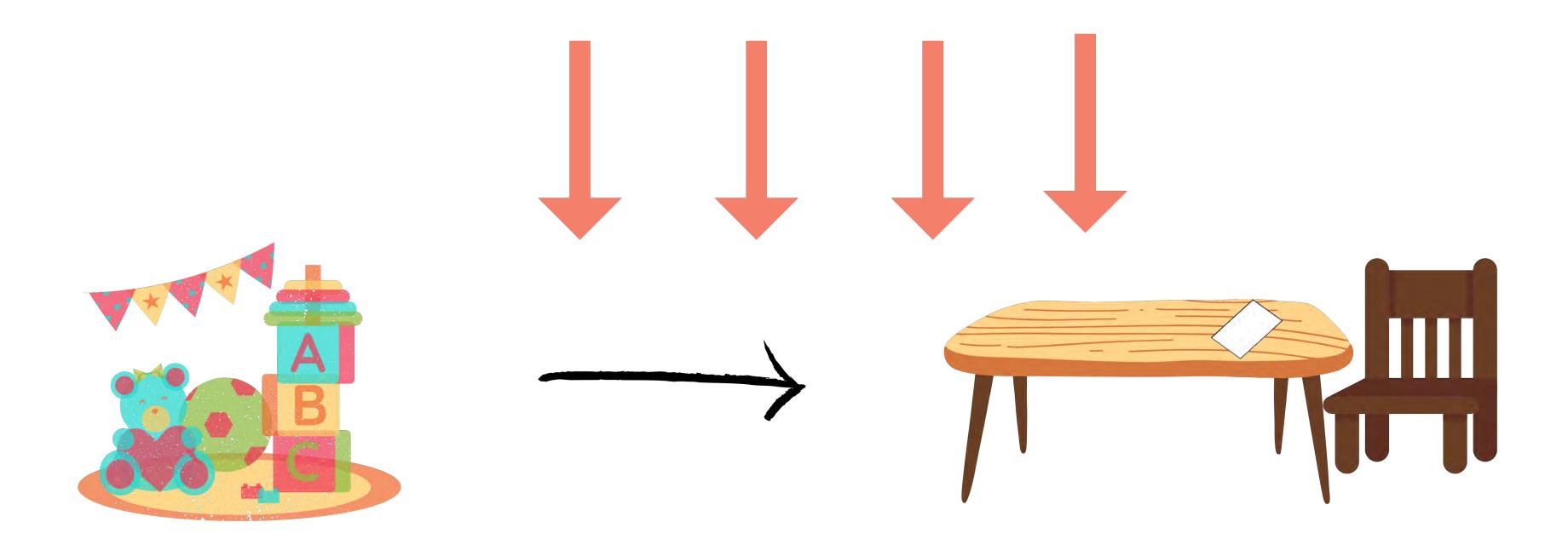


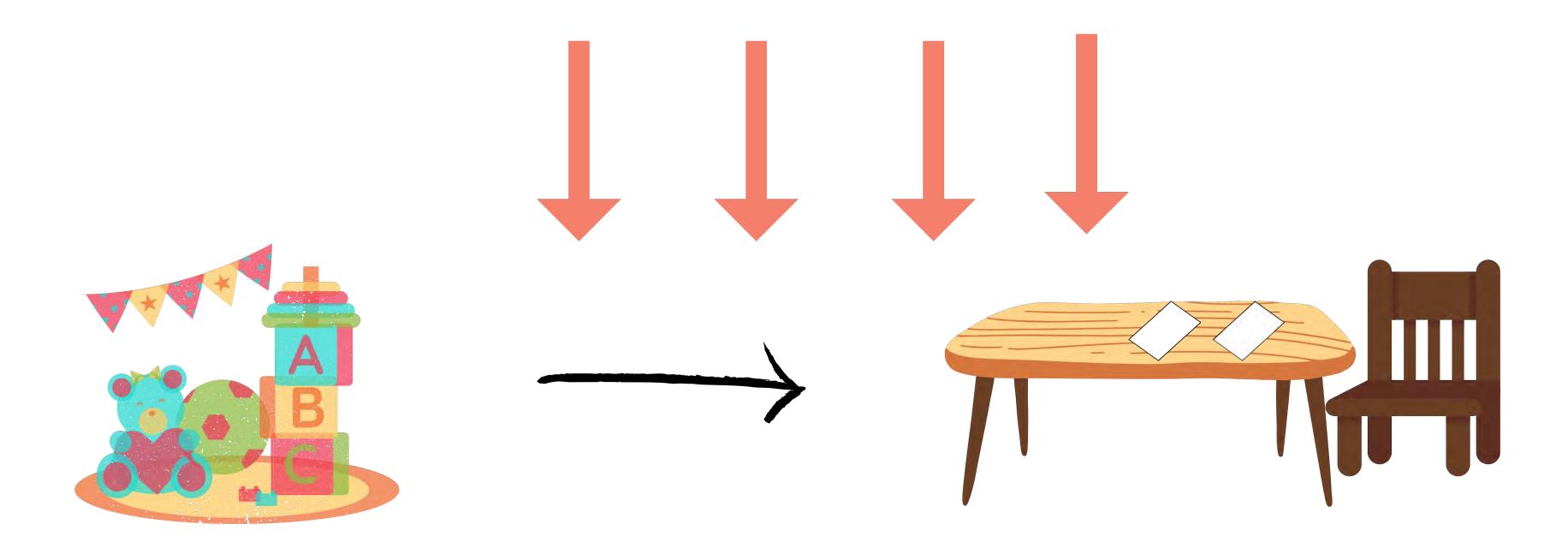


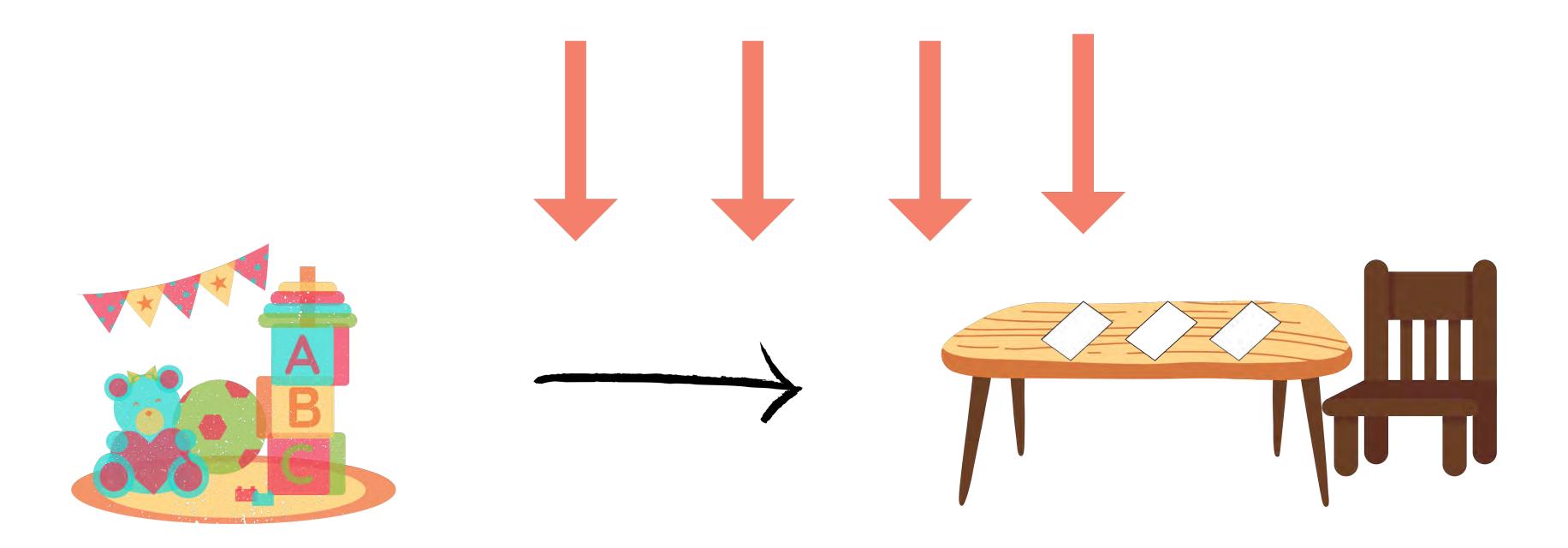








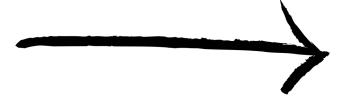


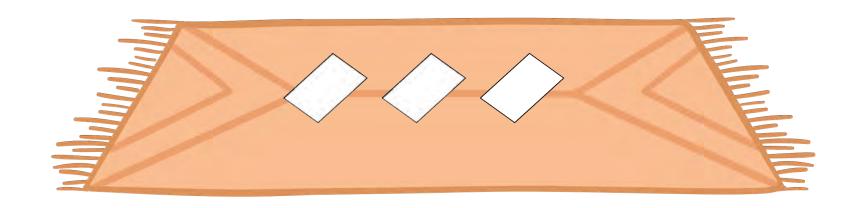












GOALS

Take one goal (e.g., tolerates instructions at the table) and break it down into many steps

- tolerates transitioning 2 feet away from play area
- tolerates transitioning 4 feet away from play area
- tolerates transitioning 6 feet away from play area
- tolerates sitting at the work area
- tolerates sitting at the work area and one instruction

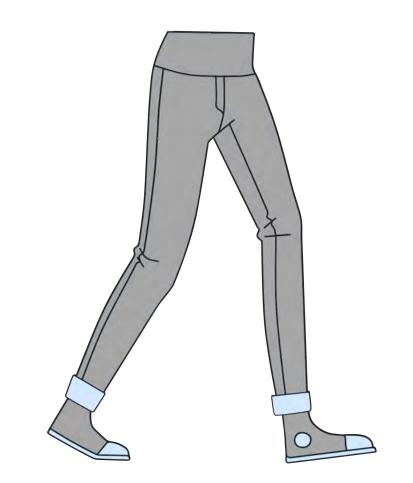
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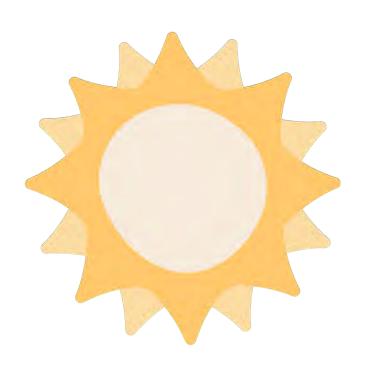


TOLERATING CHANGES IN CLOTHING ACROSS SEASONS



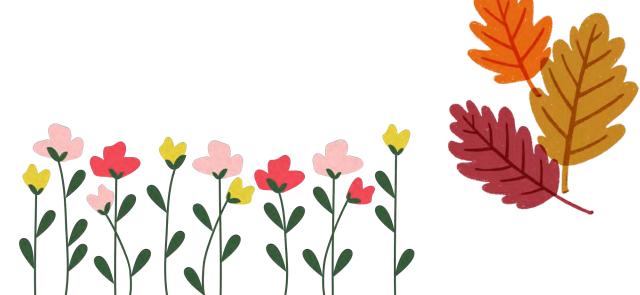


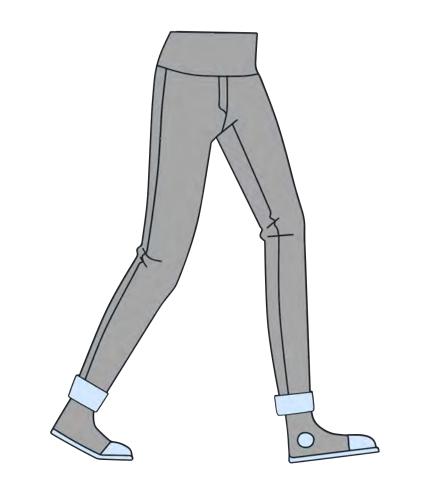


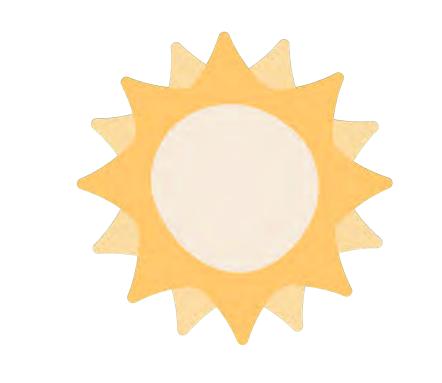


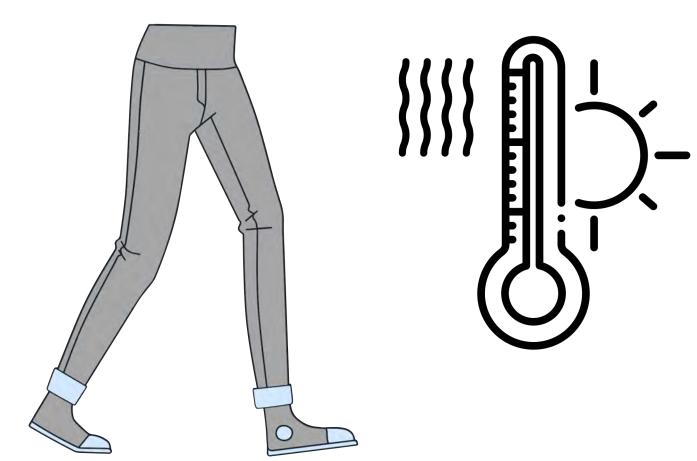
TOLERATING CHANGES IN CLOTHING ACROSS SEASONS











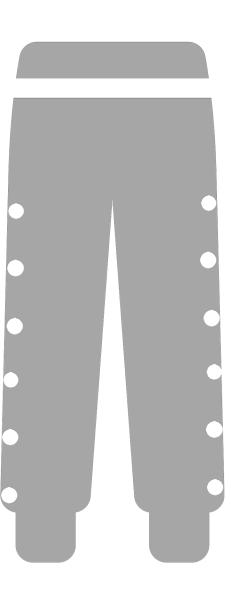
ENCOURAGE CAREGIVERS TO PROVIDE CHOICES WHENEVER POSSIBLE



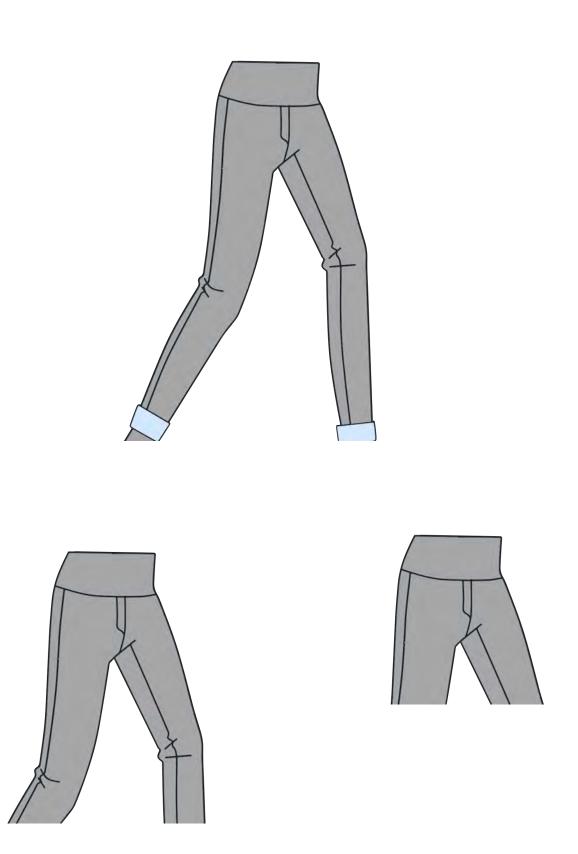
















CAREGIVER

- Data collection
 - o A-B-C
 - Countee or TallyFlex apps
 - Not always straightforward
 - Individualize and use BST to teach





CAREGIVER

- Data collection
 - o A-B-C
 - Countee or TallyFlex apps
 - Not always straightforward
 - Individualize and use BST to teach
 - Sleep
 - Sleep logs



			Complete	in Morning			
Start Date:/_/_ Day of the Week:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
My child got into bed last night at:	PM/AM	PM/AM	PM/AM	PM/AM	PM/AM	PM/AM	PM/AM
Last night my child fell as	sleep:						
Easily: After some time: With difficulty:	0	0	0	0 0 0	0	0	0 0
My child woke up during	the night:						
# of times							
# of minutes							
My child got out of bed today at:	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM
Last night my child slept a total of:	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
My child's sleep was disturbed by: noise, lights, temperature, pets, allergies, nightmares, stress, discomfort, pain, etc.							
When my child woke up f	or the day, he/she fel	t:					
Rested: Somewhat rested: Tired:	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Notes: Record any other factors that may affect your child's sleep							

CAREGIVER

- Reinforcement
 - Noncontingent reinforcement (NCR)
 - How to use NCR to decrease likelihood of severe behavior during lower preferred activities

CAREGIVER

- Reinforcement
 - Noncontingent reinforcement (NCR)
 - How to use NCR to decrease likelihood of severe behavior during lower preferred activities
 - Differential reinforcement
 - Focus on positive and preferred interactions for safe behaviors
 - Avoid scolding of severe behavior

CAREGIVER

- Reinforcement
 - Noncontingent reinforcement (NCR)
 - How to use NCR to decrease likelihood of severe behavior during lower preferred activities
 - Differential reinforcement
 - Focus on positive and preferred interactions for safe behaviors
 - Avoid scolding of severe behavior
- Provide the caregiver with resources
 - Examples
 - Autism Speaks Challenging Behavior Toolkit
 - September 26th project checklists





- Safety through awareness training
 - Awareness and prevention skills
 - Environmental awareness
 - Proper postioning



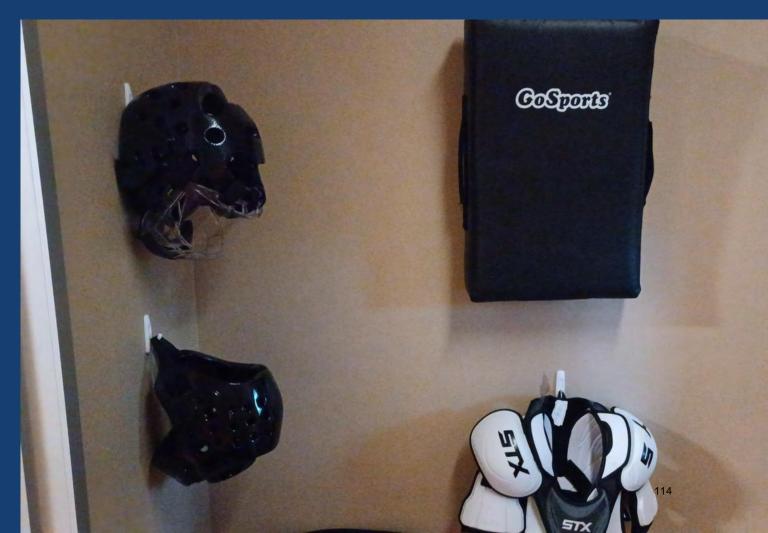


- Safety through awareness training
 - Awareness and prevention skills
 - Environmental awareness
 - Proper postioning
 - Healthy contingencies
 - Protective padding and equipment











- Crisis managment training
 - Blocking, release, and de-escalation
 - Restrictive interventions
 - Crisis plans













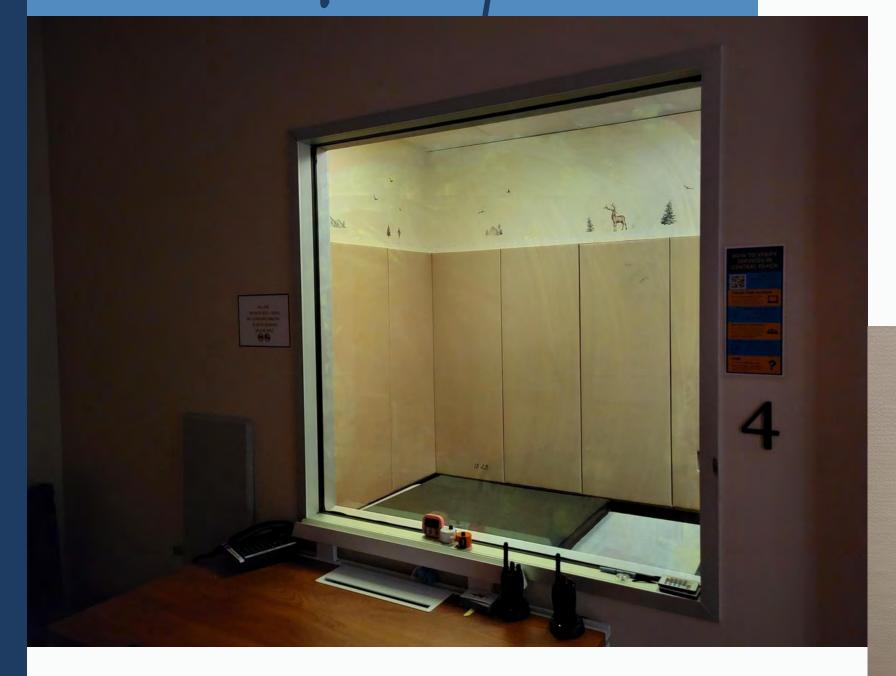








ENVIRONMENTAL















About Us

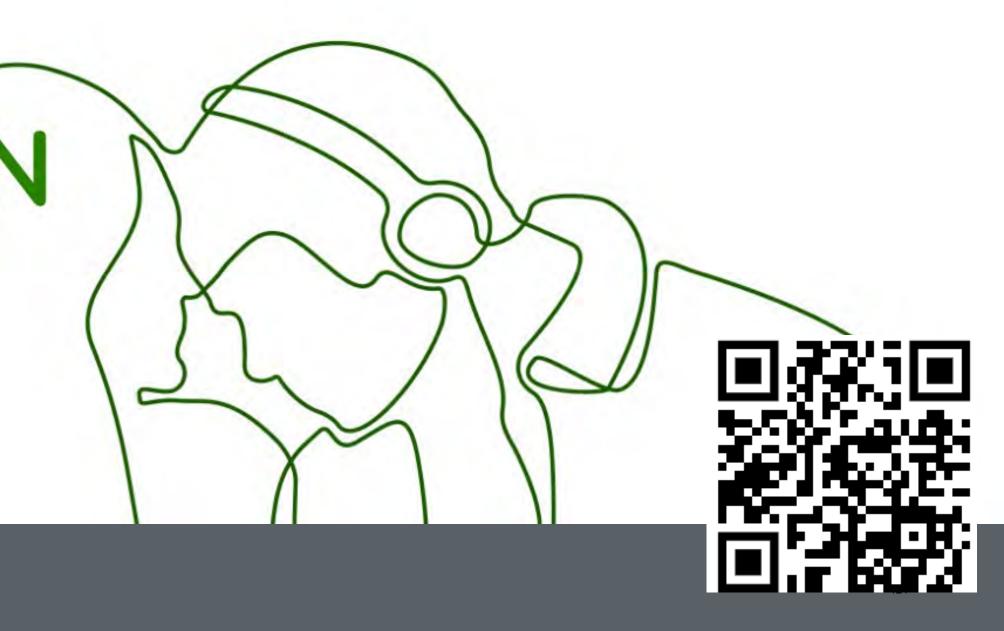
Research

Advocacy

Families

Get Involved







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National Network

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Webinars

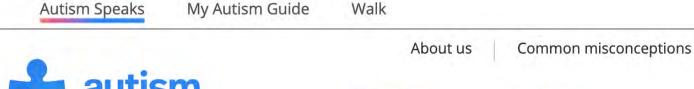
Podcast

Donate

Pursuing recognition, policy and solutions for the surging population of individuals, families and caregivers affected by severe forms of autism and related disorders.

Resources







What is autism?

Help & information

Our work

◀ BACK

Challenging Behaviors Roadmap for Families

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are at increased risk of engaging in challenge behaviors such as self-injury, aggression and destructive behavior. Unfortunately, appropria and effective treatments and services are lagging.

In response to this, in December 2020 the Autism Speaks Thought Leadership Summit on Challenging Behaviors brought together leaders in autism care and research across North America to assess the landscape of services and supports for people with autism who experience challenging behaviors and act as a catalyst for innovations in programs and polic to improve systems of care for this population. A comprehensive and diverse multi-disciplinated and representative group of participants, including individuals with autism and family members were present to be sure all voices in the community contributed to this important discussion

This roadmap is one product of that summit and is intended to help parents, extended familiar caregivers and others supervising or in charge of care for an autistic loved one. It's goal is to them navigate challenges, help identify causes and provide guidance in managing behaviors

In this you will find:

- An overview of challenging behaviors
- Getting help and treatment for those with autism experiencing challenging behaviors
- Home supports for those experiencing challenging behavior
- Prevention strategies
- Crisis management and hospitalization.

Workgroups from the summit also developed the following for clinical use by licensed professionals: The Clinician Guide: Program Development and Best Practices for Treating Se Behaviors in Autism. Feel free to share it with your autistic loved one's healthcare provider to







What is autism?

About us

Help & information

Common misconceptions

Our work

◀ BACK

ATN/AIR-P Parent's Guide to Applied Behavior Analysis

ABA is a set of principles that form the basis for many behavioral treatments. ABA is based on the science of learning and behavior. ABA is considered an evidence-based "best" practice treatment by the US Surgeon General and by the American Psychological Association.

This tool kit is designed to provide you with a better understanding of ABA, how your child can benefit, and where/how you can seek ABA services.

Sections include:

- What is ABA?
- What types of therapies use ABA principles?
- How do ABA methods support people with autism?
- What does ABA look like?
- · What are components of a strong ABA program?
- · Who provides ABA services?
- Where can I find ABA services?

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