
Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Collaboration for OT and BCBA for Children with ASD

Renee Watling, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Christopher Jones, PhD, BCBA-D

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the components of effective collaboration between professionals when working to address challenging behaviors in their clients
- Understand the professional preparation of occupational therapists and behavior analysts including areas of knowledge and expertise, as well as the therapeutic perspectives each profession brings to their clientele
- Become familiar with and appreciate the unique approaches that occupational therapy and behavior analyst professionals apply when analyzing and addressing challenging behaviors in clients
- Be able to effectively initiate, maintain and participate in collaborative problem-solving with other professionals to analyze, plan, and implement intervention for challenging behavior in clients

Chapter 1: Essentials of Collaboration

A large body of evidence supports collaboration among service delivery providers for promoting positive outcomes in clients; however, collaboration between professionals can be challenging.

This chapter addresses the essential components of effective collaboration in therapeutic service delivery including building inter-professional rapport, establishing role clarity and expectations, using a shared decision-making process, and fostering unity.

Chapter 2: Introductions to Occupational Therapy and Behavior Analysis

This chapter will introduce occupational therapy, including areas of knowledge and expertise based on curricular requirements of accredited programs; main philosophies that guide treatment, particularly as related to challenging behavior; and professional preparation for collaborative relationships with other professionals. The chapter will discuss the holistic approach that occupational therapists have regarding client function including understanding of the person-environment-occupation relationship. This chapter is designed to help non occupational therapy practitioners better understand occupational therapy philosophy and professional preparation as a foundation for improving inter-professional collaboration.

Chapter 3: Approaches to Addressing Challenging Behaviors

This chapter will introduce behavior analysis, including areas of knowledge and expertise based on curricular requirements of accredited programs; main philosophies that guide treatment, particularly as related to challenging behavior; professional preparation for collaborative relationships with other professionals. This chapter will explain how behavior analysts use the science of behaviorism to address behaviors of social significance to the individual. This chapter

is designed to help non-applied behavior analysis therapy practitioners better understand ABA therapy philosophy and professional preparation as a foundation for improving inter-professional collaboration.

Chapter 4: OT-BCBA Collaboration in Action

This chapter contains a discussion of each profession's general approach to understanding and planning intervention for challenging behavior. For occupational therapists, this will include consideration of the function of the behavior and any sensory influences on the behavior such as neurophysiological processing of sensory input and its widespread effect on client arousal, emotion, behavior, and function. The chapter will also address using behavioral, sensory integrative, and neurophysiological frames of reference for understanding the behavior and designing intervention. For behavior analysts, this will include emphasis on function of the behavior and the ABCs that the behavior is contingent upon. It will also include assessment tools commonly used by behavior analysts for evaluating challenging behavior and an assessment/evaluation of the environment where the behavior occurs and other possible contingencies. This chapter will explicitly highlight places of overlap and agreement between the professions and suggest strategies for working together in situations where disagreement exists.