

An Introduction to the Volume 2, Number 1 of *Behavior Analysis in Practice (BAP)*

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The delivery of services to families in natural settings is a continuing theme of papers published in *BAP*. The articles appearing in this issue reflect the diversity of clinical problems and populations that behavior analysts serve. From teaching functional skills (e.g., communication, vocational tasks) to treating substance abuse and feeding problems, practicing behavior analysts are improving the lives of people in our communities.

Reducing Barriers to Dissemination of Research-Based Practices

Despite decades of research on effective treatments for social problems, practitioners sometimes encounter difficulties translating research findings into best practice. Two discussion papers, one on the behavioral treatment of substance abuse and the other on the behavioral treatment of feeding problems, address this issue by identifying potential barriers to dissemination and strategies to overcome them. In “Facilitating the Adoption of Contingency Management for the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders,” John Roll and his colleagues review the evidence supporting the efficacy of contingency management procedures yet acknowledge the lack of its widespread adoption in community substance-abuse treatment settings. The authors then offer some solutions to this problem based on consideration of current factors that appear to be responsible for these barriers. Melanie Bachmeyer’s review of behavioral treatments for feeding disorders focuses on procedures that can be effective in the absence of escape extinction, given the difficulties that caregivers may encounter with this intervention component. In the final section of her paper, “Treatment of

Selective and Inadequate Food Intake in Children: A Review and Practical Guide,” the author provides some recommendations for practitioners yet emphasizes the need for further research in this area.

Jay Harding and his colleagues aim to improve the dissemination of functional communication training (FCT), a thoroughly studied treatment for children’s problem behavior. In “Conducting Functional Communication Training in Home Settings: A Case Study and Recommendations for Practitioners,” the authors take readers step-by-step through a model community-based program in which parents conduct functional assessments and implement treatment in their homes with the assistance of a behavioral consultant. The detailed case example shows

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practitioners what works and illustrates the effective use of home-based training. The authors also provide concrete suggestions for those who conduct this type of consultation.

Reducing Barriers to Community Integration

Two papers in this issue focus on skills that should enable individuals with severe disabilities to participate more fully in community life. In “Teaching Teenagers with Autism to Answer Cell Phones and Seek Assistance When Lost,” Hannah Hoch and colleagues used prompts and reinforcement to teach teenagers with autism to seek assistance when lost in a variety of public settings. The authors

not only demonstrate the success of this training but also provide detailed recommendations for practitioners and educators. L. Perry Lattimore and colleagues continue their line of research on vocational skills training in “Rapid Training of a Community Job Skill to Nonvocal Adults with Autism: An Extension of Intensive Teaching.” The experimenters evaluated the efficacy of 1-day intensive simulation training for promoting the acquisition of skills needed at a community job site.

Invited Commentaries: The Licensure of Behavior Analysts

The possibility of state licensure specific to our profession has recently generated a substantial amount of interest among those who practice behavior analysis. Grassroots efforts to secure licensure for behavior analysts in several states have generated some controversy and compromises among professionals in our field. In the fall of 2008, the Council of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) voted to support the licensure of behavior analyst practitioners after a survey of current and former members indicated that more than 70% believed that they would benefit substantially or moderately from licensure. Representatives of two professional bodies, the ABAI and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® (BACB), have recently drafted guidelines in the form of model licensing acts. As this journal goes to press, the ABAI Council is soliciting input on its draft of the model licensing act and, in an e-mail message, indicated that they are working with officials at the BACB to generate a single model act that both organizations could support.

Given the importance of this topic to the practice of our profession, we are pleased to publish two perspectives on this issue by prominent practitioners in our field. Gina Green, who is currently serving as Executive Director of The Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA), and APBA board member Jim Johnson introduce the invited commentaries by briefly comparing and contrasting licensure and certification. In the following commentary, Michael Dorsey, a member of the ABAI Practice Board, Michael

Weinberg, chair of the Licensure Committee of the ABAI Practice Board, Thomas Zane, and Megan Guidi discuss the advantages of licensure for consumers and professionals, along with the limitations of the current certification process. Finally, Gina Green and Jim Johnston, authors of the second commentary, caution against pursuing licensure after discussing the required resources, challenges, and pitfalls associated with this endeavor.

This issue of *BAP* concludes with two book reviews aimed at professionals

who work with parents of children with autism. Baker Wright and Kim Lucker provide overviews of the content, strengths, and limitations of two recently published books that are primarily targeted to parents, *Right From the Start: Behavioral Intervention for Young Children with Autism (2nd ed.)* and *Self-Help Skills for People with Autism: A Systematic Teaching Approach*. Practitioners will find these critical reviews helpful when recommending books to consumers and other professionals who desire to learn more about applied behavior analysis.

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