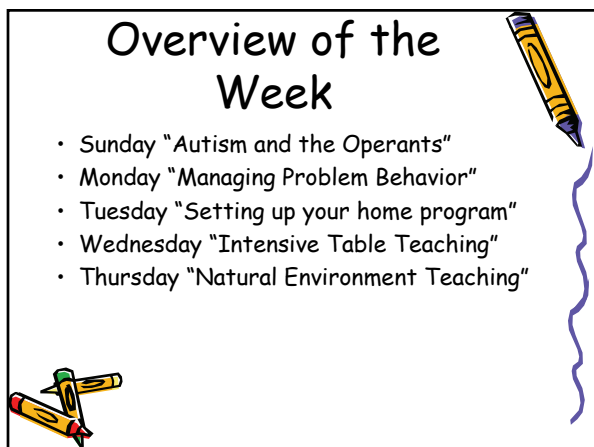


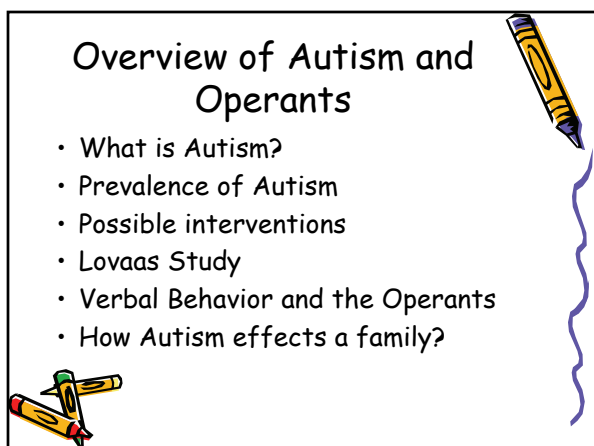
Autism and the Operants

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Overview of the Week

- Sunday "Autism and the Operants"
- Monday "Managing Problem Behavior"
- Tuesday "Setting up your home program"
- Wednesday "Intensive Table Teaching"
- Thursday "Natural Environment Teaching"



Overview of Autism and Operants

- What is Autism?
- Prevalence of Autism
- Possible interventions
- Lovaas Study
- Verbal Behavior and the Operants
- How Autism effects a family?

What is Autism?

- A pervasive developmental disorder characterized by deficits in social interaction and communication and a presence of repetitive, stereotypic behaviors.



Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Asperger's Syndrome (AS)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS)
- Autism
- Rhett's Syndrome
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD)



Signs and Symptoms of Asperger's Syndrome

- Diagnosis as early as 2 yrs. However most children diagnosed in early elementary years
- Signs:
 - Typical language development however the child struggles to communicate
 - Difficulty with social interactions



Signs and Symptoms of AS (Continued)

- Symptoms
 - Impairment in multiple nonverbal behaviors
 - Failure to develop peer relationships
 - Lack of interest to share self accomplishments
 - Lack of understanding of social relationships



Signs and Symptoms of AS (Continued)

- Symptoms
 - Preoccupation with certain interests
 - Inflexible within routines and rituals
 - Stereotypical or repetitive motor movements



Sign and Symptoms of "PDD-NOS"

- Usually diagnosed at 3 or 4 yrs
- Delay in Language and lack social skills however the deficits are mild compared to other children on the spectrum
- Individuals are diagnosed with PDD-NOS when they do not meet the criteria other autism spectrum disorders



Signs and Symptoms of Autism

- Diagnosed from 15 months - 3 yrs
- Signs
 - Consistent unresponsiveness to different people
 - Focuses intently on 1 item
 - Lack of eye contact
 - Consistent unresponsiveness to their name
 - Abnormal response to sensory experiences (loud noises, large crowds, new situations)



Signs and Symptoms of Autism (Continued)

- Symptoms
 - Difficulty with social interaction (interpreting other's point views)
 - Difficulty expressing their needs, wants, thoughts, and ideas
 - Difficulty in understanding basic directions
 - Engages in repetitive movements, behaviors
 - Lack of play skills



Signs and Symptoms of Rett's Syndrome

- Normal development until 18 months; the regression can be seen immediately; effects exclusively females
- Signs
 - Loss of muscle tone
 - Loss of purposeful use of hands
 - Problems with walking and crawling
 - Diminish eye contact
 - Loss of the ability to speak



Rhett's Syndrome (Continued)

- Symptoms
 - Toe walking
 - Sleep problems
 - Wide base gait when walking
 - Teeth grinding
 - Cognitive disabilities
 - Aphasia



Signs and Symptoms of Childhood Disintegrative Disorder "CDD"

- Very rare; diagnosed by 3 or 4 yrs
- The child develops language and social interactions appropriately before the diagnoses at either 3 or 4 yrs
- Loss of skills are more dramatic than "autism", the skills included motor, language, and social
- Also, accompanied by loss of bowel and bladder control; often with seizures and very low IQ



Prevalence of Autism

- Effects 1 out of 150 children
- Varies from state to state
- Constantly changing



Possible Interventions

- TEEACH (Teaching and Education of Autistic related Communication-handicapped Children)
- GFCF (Gluten free and Casein free) diet
- RDI (Relationship Developmental Intervention)



Lovaas Study

- 1987 study
- First experimental study of the effects of comprehensive, intensive, long-duration ABA programming for young children with ASD
- 19 children who received 40 hours of home based services for 2 years, all under the age of 4
- 40 kids in two control groups
 - 1 group received 10 hours of ABA treatment per week
 - 1 group received no services
- 90% of children substantially improved when using this method
 - 9 out of the 19 children, resulting in normal-range IQ scores and allowing them to be placed into age-appropriate classes with their peers. (www.lovaasinstitute.org)
- This study has been replicated many times and continues to be the method that is used today in classrooms and in home therapy



Verbal Behavior (VB)

- Originates from B.F. Skinner "Verbal Behavior"
- Analyzing words based off their function rather than their definition
- Its not what you are saying, it is why you are saying it



Verbal Behavior (VB) (Continued)

- Differs from Speech Therapy (looks at syntax, grammar, pragmatics, mean length of utterances)
- Leaders of the field are Jack Michael, Mark Sunberg, Vincent Carbone



Verbal Operants

- Mand
- Echoic
- Imitation (with respect to sign language)
- Tact
- Intraverbal



What is a Mand?

- Mand is a request based on learner's motivation (MO)
 - You can request a toy, food, drink, item, activity, action, or person
- Ex.
"Car", "I want a hug", "I am thirsty",
"Where is the dog?", "I need scissors",
"Sing loud", "Can you give me paper?"



What is the Echoic?

- Repeating exact words/phrases that was said to the learner

- Ex.

Parent says:

"Juice"

"I want pizza"

Learner says:

"Juice"

"I want pizza"



What is Imitation?

- Imitation is used to teach sign language by copying motor movements to communicate their needs/wants

Parent:

Signs apple

Signs play

Learner:

Signs apple

Signs play



What is a Tact?

- A tact is a label used to describe stimuli in the environment
 - You can tact items, actions, people, places, features, functions, class, adjectives, prepositions, and pronouns



What is an Intraverbal?

- Intraverbal is a response to question, word fill-in, statement without the stimulus being present

- is not point to point



Intraverbal (Continued)

	Parent says:	Learner says:
Fill in:	"ready, set ____"	"gol"
	"A, B ____"	"C, D"
	"SpongeBob ____"	"Square Pants"
Statement:	"Tell me some animals"	"cat, dog, pig"
	"I like Spiderman"	"I like wonder woman"
Question:	"What do you want to eat for dinner?"	"Cookies"
	"What is your favorite video game?"	"Wii Rock Band"



The Impact of Autism on a Family

- Have high expectations for your child
- You can be your child's best teacher however it will take time and practice!
- Celebrate the small success!



Question and Answers

