



MODULE 7

INTRO & BASIC CONCEPTS OF ABA



PROJECT ACCESS

JARGON DICTIONARY



BEHAVIOR: ANYTHING A PERSON DOES INTERACTING WITH THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

SCIENCE: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR SEEKING AND ORGANIZING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD

WHAT IS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS?

A science devoted to understanding and improving human behavior

IMPROVING HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- Teaching a student how to read for the first time
- Teaching a basketball player how to shoot more accurately
- Improving employee job performance
- Improving behavior in community members to better sustain the environment

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Description: collection of facts about observed events, allows for a hypothesis to be made

Prediction: repeated observations that can be used to predict the probability of events

Control: highest level of scientific understanding, demonstrate a functional relationship

A SCIENTIST'S BEHAVIORS

- **Determinism:** the universe is lawful
- **Empiricism:** objective observation
- **Experimentation:** identify functional relationships
- **Replication:** repeated experimentation
- **Parsimony:** the simplest explanation
- **Philosophical Doubt:** continually question

BRANCHES OF ABA

	Radical Behaviorism	Experimental Analysis of Behavior (EAB)	Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	Practice Guided by Behavior Analysis
Area	Theory and philosophy	Basic research	Applied research	Help people improve socially significant behaviors
Goals	Understand the theory of behavior	Discover principles of behavior	Discover how to improve socially significant behaviors	Improve lives by changing behavior
Activities	Conceptual/philosophical analysis	Conduct basic experiments	Conduct applied experiments	Design, implement, & evaluate behavior change programs

Translational Research

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABA

- **Applied:** socially significant
- **Behavioral:** target observable behavior
- **Analytic:** demonstrate a functional relation
- **Technological:** detailed and clear procedures
- **Conceptually Systematic:** based on foundational behavioral principles
- **Effective:** produce meaningful change
- **Generality:** change in behavior generalizes across settings, people, behaviors

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Information gathered from Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). Applied Behavior Analysis. Pearson Education.



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