



## Understanding Behavior and Disability

### Behavior and Disability

- Behavior ≠ Disability
- Behaviors do not occur – “just because”
- Theories to understand why we behave:
  - Dynamic Systems theory
    - Attractor Wells
  - Economic theory
    - Incentives

### Behavior and Disability

- Theories to understand why we behave:
  - Behavior Analytic Theory
    - Behaviors occur because they are reinforced
    - Behaviors decrease because they are punished
    - This includes both adaptive and maladaptive Bx
  - Behavior is something you say or do
    - Be descriptive of what you see not value statements of what you perceive behaviors mean
      - Examples
        - Tantrum
        - Disrespectful
        - Angry


### Maladaptive Social Behavior

Having a “behavior”

- Really talking about Problem Bx


Factors in Social Behavior

- Expectations for life
- Expectations for achievement
- Friendships / Social Networks
  - Impacts socially appropriate models



### Maladaptive Social Behavior

- Infantilization
- Incidental Learning and Social Deficits



## Communication

## Communication

### Verbal Repertoire

- Four Basic Types of Communication
  - Expressive vocal verbal (speaking)
  - Expressive non-verbal (gestures, facial expressions, body postures, etc.)
  - Receptive vocal verbal (being spoken to verbally)
  - Receptive non-verbal (understanding gestures, facial expressions, body postures, etc.)
  
- Use of term "Non-Verbal"

## Behavior and Communication

- Communication is Behavior
  - "Verbal Behavior"
  
- Examples:
  - History of attention for maladaptive behavior
    - Consequence problem Bx with access, attention or avoidance
  - Aggressive behavior
    - Hitting equals =
  
- Lack of vocal verbal behavior = "Function"

## Assessment of "Function" Level

- Assessment / Label of "Function"
  - High / Low
  
- Receptive Language versus Expressive Language
  - Bias in the U.S. and all over the World
  
- Extensive Verbal Repertoire (more than just "speaks well")
  - "High Functioning"
  
- Limited Verbal Repertoire (more than just "doesn't speak")
  - "Low Functioning"



## Communicating: Asking Questions

Ideally, you would be able to ask Open questions

- Open
  - Tell me what happened Thursday?
  - What happened in the bedroom?
  - Tell me more about that?
- Some individuals may only be able to answer YES/NO
  - Leading vs. Not Leading YES/NO questions
- Leading Yes/No
  - Did Mr. Steve touch your penis?
    - (Prior to any previous identification of Mr. Steve)
  - Did Brian hit you?
    - (Same – prior)
- Not Leading Yes/No
  - Did someone hurt you?
  - Do you know who hurt you?

## Alternative Communication

### Communication Considerations

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### Alternative Communication

- Time
- Patience
- Communication is a two way street
  
- With difficult to understand speech
  - Use yes/no format as appropriate
  - Repeat and paraphrase – wait for confirmation
  - Don't be afraid to say: "I didn't understand, could you repeat"
  - Example.....

## Sharon



## Communication Considerations

- With difficult to understand speech
  - The more you are around an individual with a speech disorder – the easier it is to understand
- Expect to take more time
- Sometimes you cannot understand what a victim is saying verbally
  - Example

## Michael: Unintelligible Speech



## Communication and Considerations

- What do you do with unintelligible speech?
- Create yes/no communication
- If capable, have them:
  - Write their response
  - Draw their response
  - Show you
- Ask support person how they communicate
  - They may be able interpret victim's speech
  - Can verify with victim for accuracy (yes/no)
    - May not be admissible
- Use pictures or other AAC
- AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication)
  - Processes or devices that augment or replace an individual's method of communication

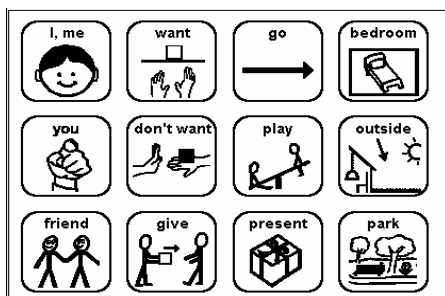
### Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- Manual signing, gestures, facial expressions, pantomime, pointing, and/or eye gaze
- American Sign Language (ASL)
  - Use professional interpreter
  - Learning basics for rapport
- Low tech
  - Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
  - Ex. Picture board
- High tech
  - iPad
  - Computer

### PECS



### Picture Board



### Communication Device: iPad



### Communicating with a person who uses an AAC Device

High Tech

### Carrie-Lynn – High Tech



## AAC Summary

- Do not assume people who use AAC have intellectual disabilities
- AAC may be one of several ways a person communicates
- Communication devices do not speak for themselves
- No special training is needed to communicate with a person who uses AAC
  - You may have to ask, "How does your device work?"
- Speak directly to the AAC Device user
- Do not interrupt when they are using their device
- Be comfortable with silence
- Final "Voice" from Carrie-Lynn

## Carrie-Lynn



## Q & A

## Contact Info

**Scott J. Modell, Ph.D.**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**  
**Andrew Jackson Building**  
**500 Deaderick Street, 15th Floor**  
**Nashville, TN 37243**  
**Office: 615-253-5688**