

Behavioral Assessment

Initial Considerations

Phases of a Behavioral Program

- Screening or intake
- Baseline
- Treatment
- Follow-up

Screening / Intake

- Are you the appropriate clinician / agency to deal with this problem /target behavior?
- Inform the client about the agency's or clinician's policies & procedures.
- Risk assessment to determine whether immediate intervention is needed (e.g. suicide, child abuse)

Screening / Intake

- Gather sufficient information about the problem to formulate a provisional diagnosis.
- Gather information to determine which specific behaviors should be baselined.

Screening / Intake

- Sources of intake information are:
 - Parents
 - Teachers
 - Formal test results
 - Grades

Baseline Phase

- The target behavior is assessed to determine the pre-treatment levels
- Determine behavioral excesses and deficits
- Assess for possible stimulus control

Baseline Phase

- (We will talk about direct behavioral assessment next)

Baseline Phase: Indirect Assessment

- Interview with the client and significant others
- Ask for one or two main problem areas to focus on initially
- Ask about possible controlling variables

Baseline Phase: Questionnaires

- Life history questionnaires
- Self-report problem checklists
- Behavioral rating scales,
- e.g. BASC-2

Baseline Phase: Other Sources of Indirect Assessment

- Role Playing
- Information from other professionals who have treated the client
- Client self-monitoring

Why is continuous progress monitoring & data collection important?

- Sometimes the baseline data could show that what someone thought to be a problem really isn't.
- Good assessment data helps identify the best treatment strategy.
- Progress monitoring lets you know if your intervention is working

Why is continuous progress monitoring & data collection important?

- When results are publicly posted, it can prompt the behavior modifiers to carry out / stick with the program.
- Publicly posted data may lead to improvements in the client aside from the intervention (reactivity).

Treatment Phase

- Training
- Teaching
- Intervention
- Therapy
- Monitoring and data collection continue throughout the treatment phase

Follow up

- Determines if improvements yielded from the treatment are maintained
