



New Lenox School District 122

102 S. Cedar Road, New Lenox IL, 60451 · Phone: 815-485-2169



CHERRY HILL SCHOOL
205 KINGSTON DRIVE

Principal: Emily Schissler
School Office Hours: 7:30 - 4:00
Phone: 815-462-7831 Fax: 815-722-8536

Excel: Early Learner Program

Our Excel program creates an individualized learning environment for our Early Learners who require intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services to meet their needs. A unique combination of ABA applications will be created for your child based on his/her individualized assessment using

the VB-MAPP. Verbal Behavior is a primary focus to teach functional language skills to all learners. The Excel Program utilizes the principles of ABA to teach students in small class sizes. Instruction is provided in both small group and 1:1 settings.

Staff to student ration is 1:1, with a classroom teacher, paraprofessionals, SLP, SW as well as OT, and PT services based on each child's IEP. Cherry Hill School has a therapy room as well as a sensory room to meet the needs of all students.



What is ABA?

Applied Behavior Analysis is an evidenced-based **scientific approach** to improve **socially significant behavior** change. ABA is recommended and supported by research and many national medical policy organizations such as U.S. Surgeon General, the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child and Health Development. ABA is an effective method for teaching individuals with autism and other related disorders.

Our staff utilizes ABA to increase skill acquisition in areas such as language skills, social skills, self-help skills and academic skills, as well as to decrease maladaptive behaviors such as aggression, self-stimulatory behavior and self-injury.

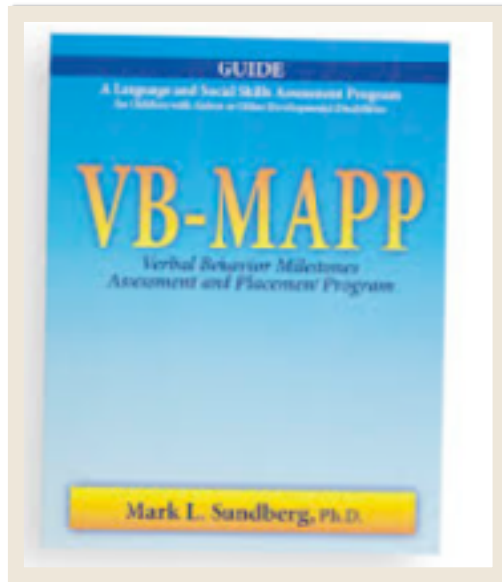
The Excel program creates individualized programming for each learner based on the principles of ABA as well the Common Core State Learning Standards.

What is an Early Learner?

One of the basic skill sets for our Early Learners are “learning how to learn” skills. Learning to learn skills are the foundational skills that allow a learner to access and benefit from instruction. Skills such as paying attention, waiting, and understanding feedback are covered in this area. An Early Learner has a deficit in the area of basic communication as well. Communication is an intensive focal point in our Excel program focusing on the modality the individual learner shows a preference to. Early Learners need direct, intensive teaching for their academic and social skills growth. Early Learners often need a focus on the reduction of maladaptive behaviors that are impeding their ability to learn and function in the environment.

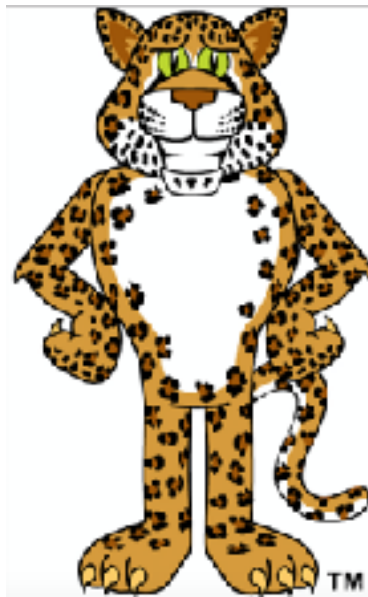


RETHINK AIMS TO PLACE EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT SOLUTIONS IN THE HANDS OF EVERY EDUCATOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. RETHINK LEVERAGES THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE CLINICAL SUPPORT, BEST-PRACTICE TOOLS, AND RESEARCH-BASED CONTENT TO REACH MORE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. RETHINK TRACKS AND ANALYZES STUDENT OUTCOMES. VIDEO-BASED TRAINING IS PROVIDED TO ALL STAFF OF EXCEL STUDENTS.



THE VERBAL BEHAVIOR MILESTONES ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

THE VB-MAPP IS A CRITERION-REFERENCED ASSESSMENT TOOL, CURRICULUM GUIDE, AND SKILL TRACKING SYSTEM THAT IS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATE LANGUAGE DELAYS. THE VB-MAPP IS BASED ON B.F. SKINNER'S (1957) ANALYSIS OF VERBAL BEHAVIOR, ESTABLISHED DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES, AND RESEARCH FROM THE FIELD OF BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS.



RELIAS LEARNING

OUR STAFF ARE HIGHLY TRAINED AND MONITORED USING THE RELIAS LEARNING PLATFORM. DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR AUTISM PROFESSIONALS, THE 5 STEP E-TRAINING SOLUTION COMBINES ONLINE VIDEO INTERVENTIONS, INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES, ASSESSMENT, SUPERVISION AND CERTIFICATION TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL COMPREHENSION AND FIELD IMPLEMENTATION.

What goes on in the Excel Program?

Verbal Behavior

Verbal Behavior (VB) is a branch of ABA based on B.F. Skinner's analysis of Verbal Behavior. VB inherently builds on a learner's motivation to teach meaningful and functional language to each child. Instead of merely focusing on the words one uses, VB focuses on the function of language, or "why" we use words. Skinner classified language into types, or "operants." The basic operants are briefly explained below:

MAND: the basic, earliest type learned. A mand is a request.

TACT: a label

INTRAVERBAL: A word used to respond to another person

ECHOIC: a repeated word

Our Excel program places an emphasis on MAND TRAINING

* It is important to note that "Verbal Behavior" does not mean vocal behavior. Our staff is trained to teach functional communication skills whether it be vocal, sign language, PECS, or an augmentative communication device.

Mand Training

Mand Training is conducted throughout the school day in both natural and contrived situations. Early learners often have limited ability to express their wants and needs, and will often exhibit problem behaviors due to this inability to communicate. Intensive mand training provides hundreds of opportunities throughout the day to

teach our learners the power of language in acquiring things they want and/or need. Environments are systematically set

up to promote language training. For example, toys in a closed box or on a shelf that the child cannot access independently requires the learner to not only approach an adult, but use his/her verbal behavior to request the desired items.

Natural Environment Teaching (NET)

Natural environment teaching utilizes the principles of ABA to teach in the natural environment. In order to promote generalization, skills taught in Intensive Teaching are also addressed in the natural environment. We capture the learner's motivation with highly preferred activities to not only teach new skills outside the intensive teaching situation, but also to assess the carry over of skills learned. For example, a student who is working on manding (requesting items), identifying colors and imitating actions could work on all of these skills at the sensory table. The staff can acquire many responses from the learner directly related to his/her individualized program while they are happily engaged in a fun activity such as water play.

Intensive Teaching

Intensive Teaching is conducted in a 1:1 staff to student ratio. During this time, the staff will focus primarily on the learner's IEP goals and objectives as well as other programming goals that need to be addressed. Intensive teaching is a discrete-trial format and

provides many opportunities for learner responding. Based on the learner's needs, a prompt hierarchy will be decided upon for teaching. Verbal Behavior is typically taught with a most- to-least prompt hierarchy, otherwise known as "errorless learning." However, some learners may respond better to least-to-most prompt hierarchies or mass trial training. Rate of instruction is delivered quickly to keep the learner engaged, teach to fluency and to minimize opportunities to engage in off task or problem behaviors. Types of tasks are mixed and varied and easy and difficult tasks are interspersed to promote continued success and a desire to keep working. Specific reinforcers will be assessed to ensure the learner is continually motivated during intensive teaching times.

Social Skills Training

Individual Consultant services are provided in accordance with the child's IEP. In addition, Social Groups are conducted in small group settings to address different types of social interactions. Based on the level of the learner, these could include: observing (proximity to peers), parallel play, responding to initiation of peers, imitating actions of peers, cooperative play and initiating with peers. Staff will facilitate structured social play opportunities as well as free play times to capture naturalistic learning opportunities with peers.