

THE ABC'S OF ABA THERAPY



ANTECEDENT

The action that occurs right before a behavior begins. The antecedent triggers a certain response from the child.

Example: A child, James, is sitting on the couch playing with his tablet. It's dinner time and mom calls James to the table. James does not respond to mom so, mom takes the tablet from James. As a result, James starts screaming and refuses his dinner. Unable to calm James down, mom returns the tablet and lets him skip dinner.

Antecedent: Mom takes the tablet.

BEHAVIOR

The resulting action that is a response to the trigger action (i.e. the antecedent).

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Behavior: James screams and refuses dinner.

CONSEQUENCE

What happens immediately after a child's behavior. This will determine how likely the behavior is to happen again.

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Consequence: Mom returned the tablet and let James skip dinner to play games. Because this is a positive outcome for James, the behavior is more likely to happen again.