ABA Meets the Classroom: A Functional Approach

Katy Foster, MA

Kathy Hickok, MS, BCBA

Danea Gorbett, MS, BCBA

Agenda

- What is and is not ABA?
- Why implement in schools?
- ABA - elementary
- ABA - secondary
- Barriers

ABA – What Is It?

"Applied Behavior Analysis is the process of systematically applying interventions based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree, *and to demonstrate that the interventions employed are responsible for the improvement in behavior"*

Baer, D.M., Wolf, M.M., & Risley, T.R. (1968)

ABA – It is Not…

Behavior Increases

- Social Skills
- Communication Skills
- Academic Fluency - Precision Teaching
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Spelling
  - Vocabulary
- Hygiene
- Grooming
- Vocational Skills

Behavior Decreases

- Self-Injurious Behavior
- PICA
- Aggression
- Restrictive/Repetitive Behaviors

Berrien RESA ASD Classroom Overview

ABA Strategies for Target Skills: Berrien RESA ASD

Antecedent-based interventions

- Discrete trial training
- Reinforcement (SR+ & DR)
- Task Analysis
- Generalization training
- Prompting/Shaping/Chaining
- Time Delay
- Stimulus-stimulus pairing with reinforcement
- Functional communication training
- Response interruption and redirection
- Pivotal response training
- Incidental teaching
- Functional routines
- FBA for interfering behaviors

Berrien RESA ASD Elementary

- Target Skills
  - Receptive language
  - Expressive language
  - Play & social interaction
  - Routines
- Target Students
  - Students with autism or characteristics of autism
  - Students not progressing as expected with current interventions
  - Up to 9 years of age

Core Components - Elementary

- Classroom Environment & Teaching Assessment – CETA Checklist (START)
- Discrete Trial Instruction – 30 to 60 minutes/day
- Pivotal Response Training – 15 to 30 minutes/day
- Functional Routines – throughout the day
- Registered Behavior Technicians
- FBA for intense behaviors
- Assessments
  - DTT (STAR) - daily
  - PRT/FR data (STAR) - weekly
  - Engagement data (START) – 2/month
  - Social interaction data (START) – 2/month
  - VB-MAPP – 2/year

How Did We Get Here? Our Journey

- Identified a curriculum/attended training
- Brought curriculum consultants in – flipped 1 room
- Pilot project – offered to 10 classrooms/curriculum consultant provided PD
  - Early On
  - Local districts
- Expanded to all county centered-based ASD classrooms @ elementary
- Implemented the secondary curriculum

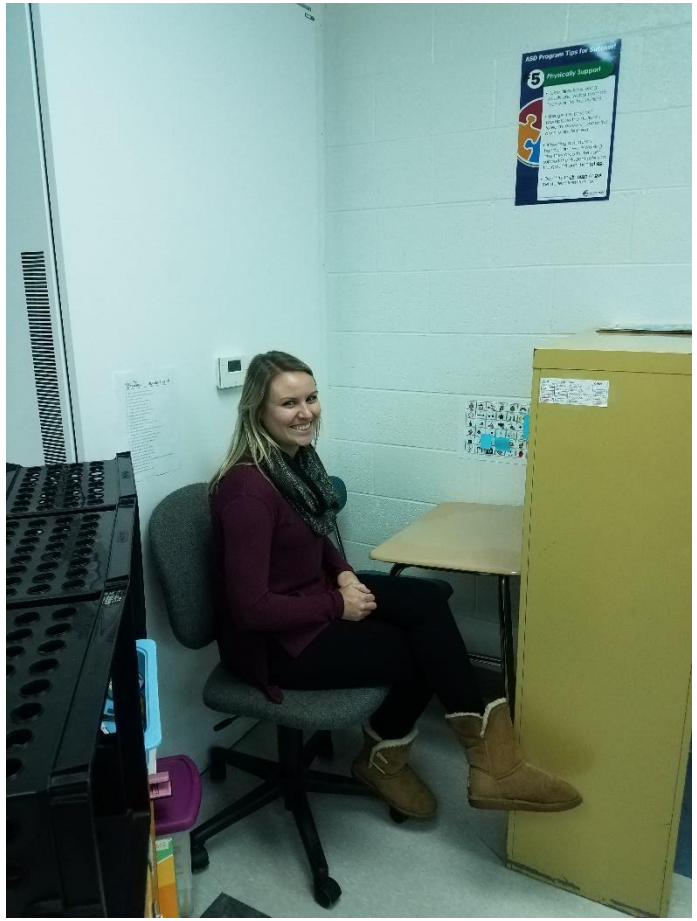
Implementation - Elementary

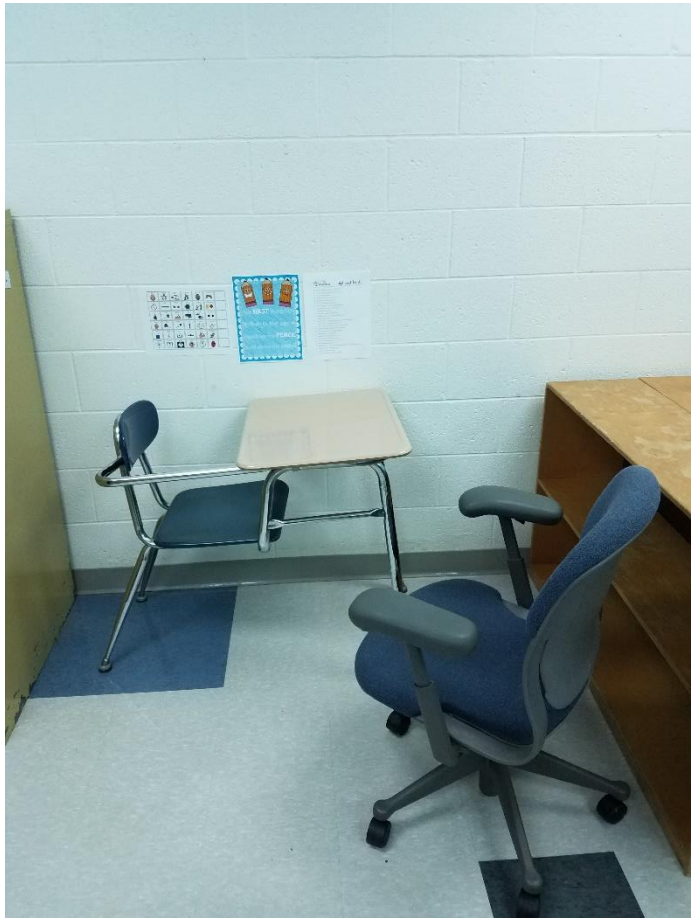
- Administrative Support
- Curriculum
  - Training – STAR, AFIRM, AIM, START
  - Materials – STAR curriculum
- Room Set Up
  - Organizational system – data collection, lesson plans, reinforcers
  - Room layout – identified space for DTT/PRT
  - Schedules
  - Visual supports
- Other
  - PRT box
  - Reinforcers
  - Dividers

Organization - Data

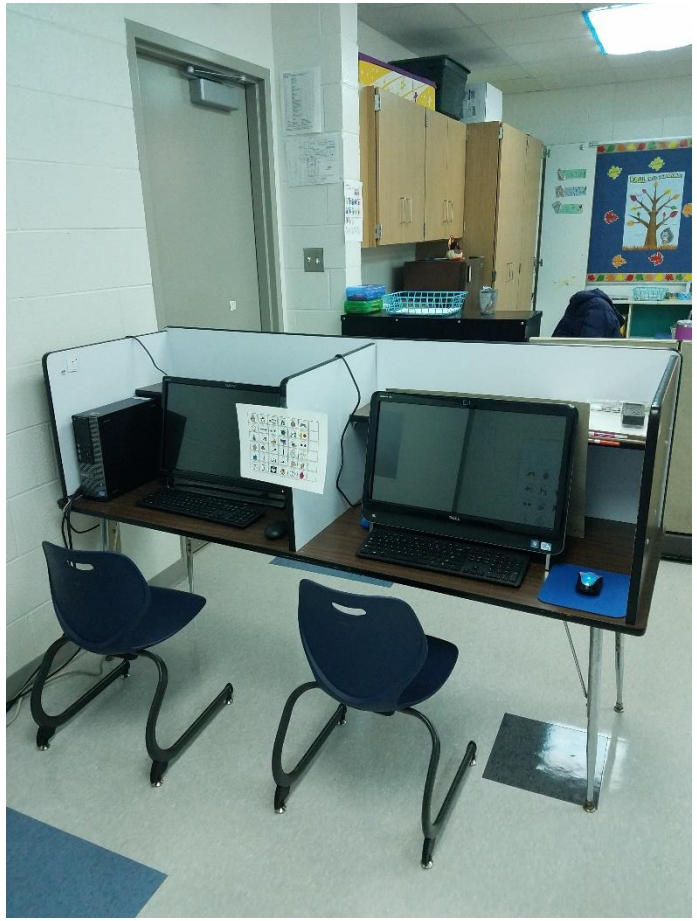
Discrete Trial Areas

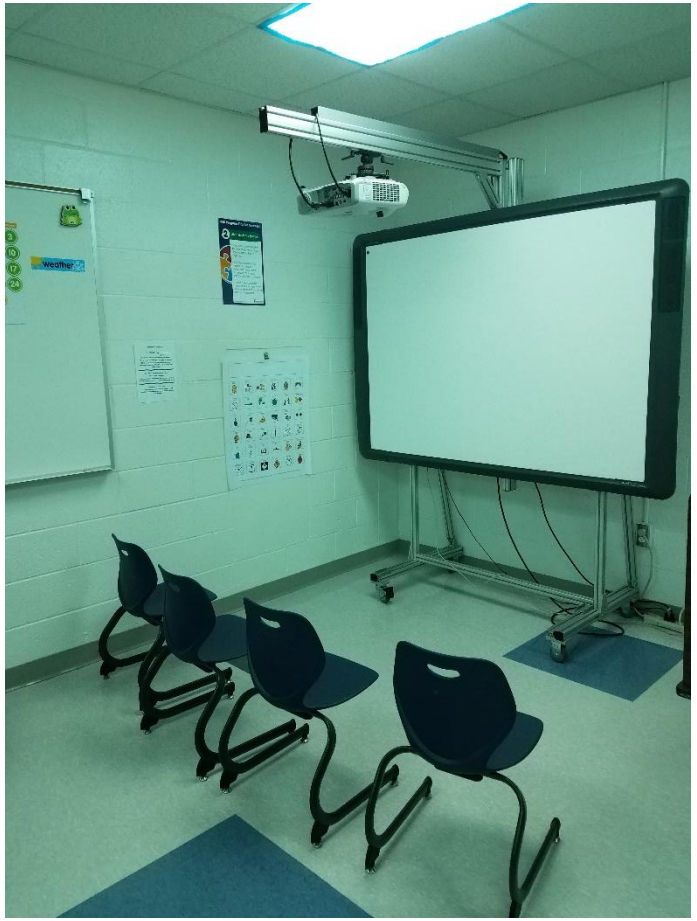
Discrete Trial Areas





Other Areas



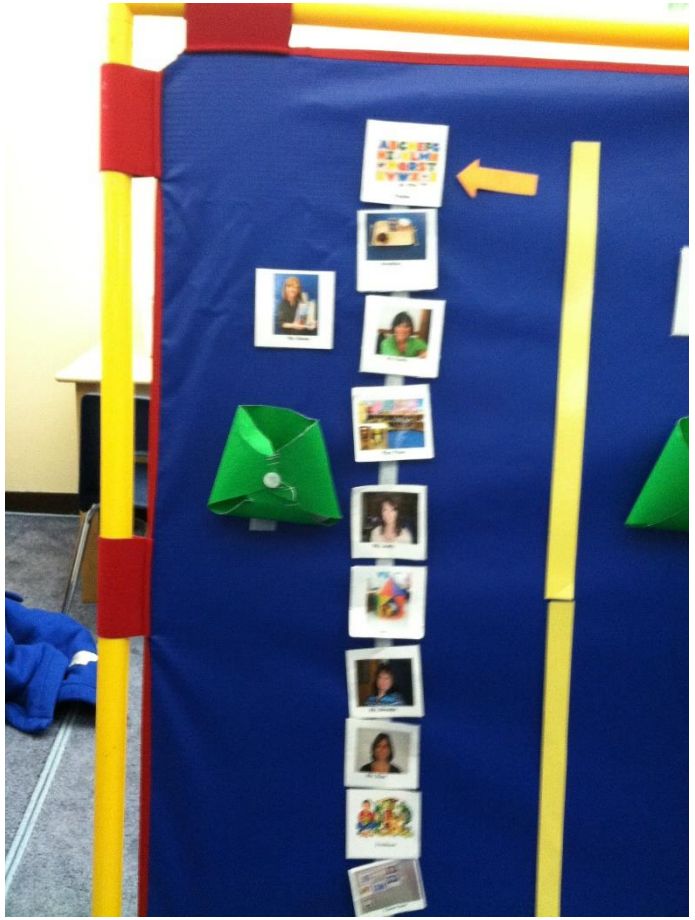


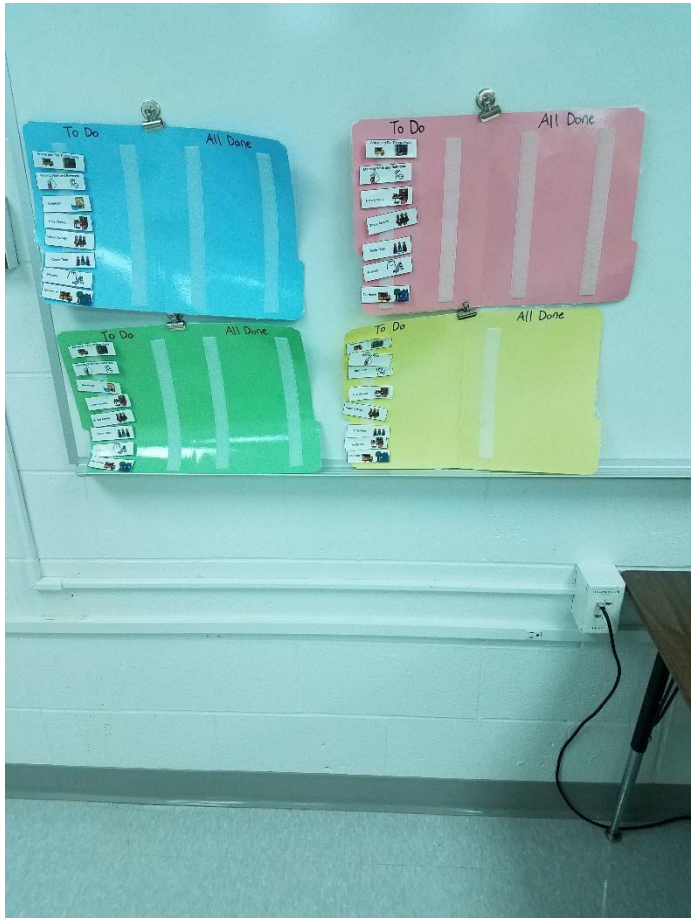
PRT Boxes

WITH DOCTOR CARDS & CLASSIC AILMENTS!
Go Fishin'
It's the fast action fishing game!
MAKE HIM BETTER

Pizza Party Play Food Set
Uno Card Game

Student & Staff Schedules



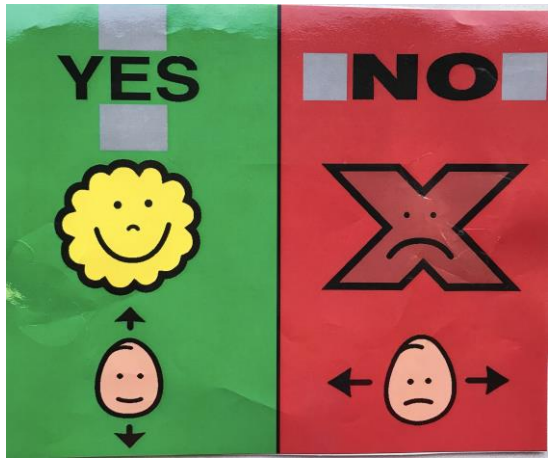


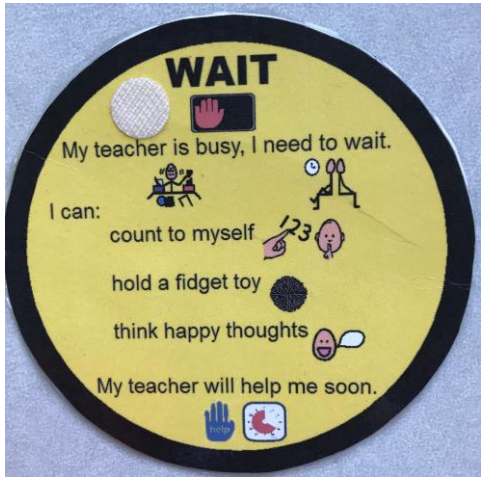
Communication Systems

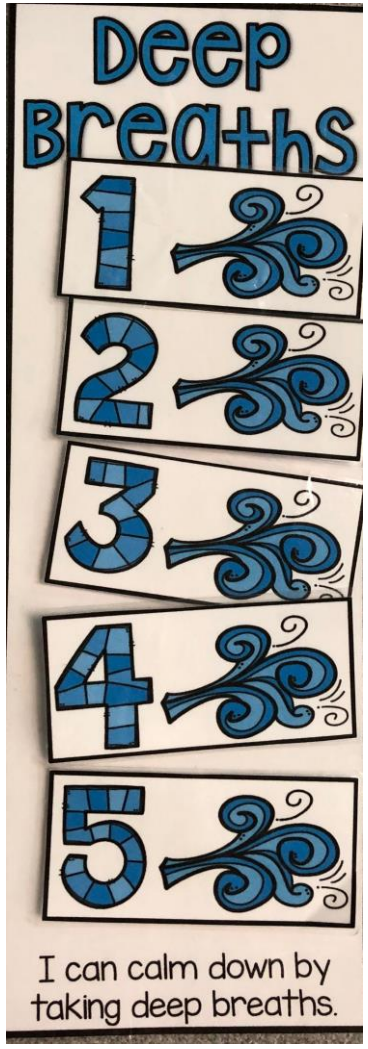
- Language Acquisition Through Motor Planning - LAMP
- Core Vocabulary Boards
- Core Books
- Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display - PODD Book/Device
- American Sign Language

Based on Individual Characteristics & Effectiveness

Visual Supports







Berrien RESA ASD Secondary

- Target Skills
  - Functional Academics
  - Functional Routines
  - Social Communication Skills
  - Vocational Skills
  - Daily Living/Independent Living Skills
- Target Students
  - Students with autism or characteristics of autism
  - Students not progressing as expected with current interventions
  - Students age 10-26

Core Components - Secondary

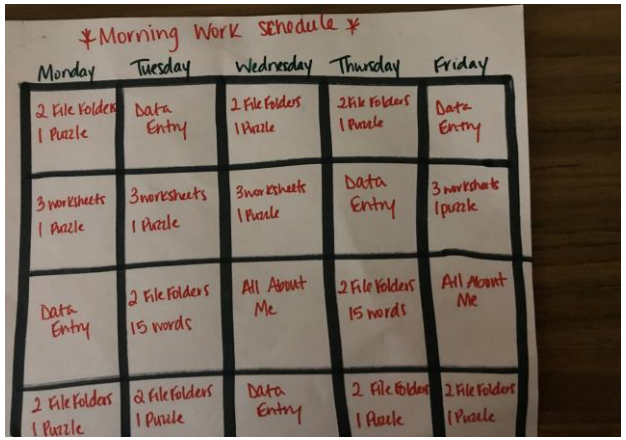
- Functional Routines – throughout the day
- Essential Eight ~ Must Have daily living skills
- Community Based Instruction
- Vocational Training at community businesses
- FBA for intense behaviors
- Assessments
  - AIMS Web – Fall, Winter, Spring
  - Engagement data (START) – 2X/Month
  - Social interaction data (START) – 2X/Month
  - VB-MAPP – Social Interaction – Winter, Spring
  - EFL Quick Assessment – Winter, Spring
  - Transition Assessments – ESTR, Building Your Future (START), School to Career, LINKS, O*NET

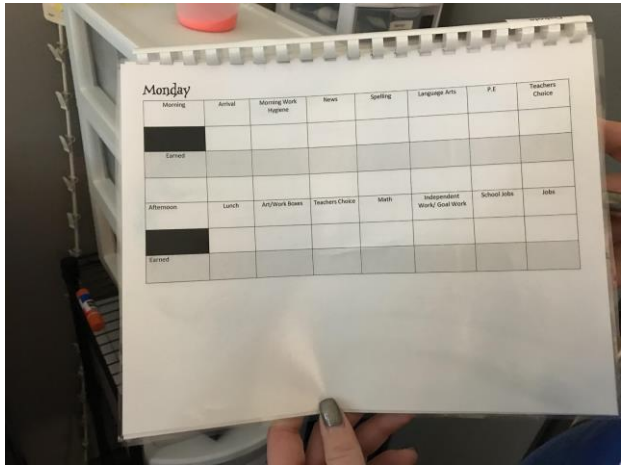
Implementation - Secondary

- Middle/High School Classrooms in locals
  - Core Curriculum – Engagement Data
  - Peer to Peer Supports – Social & Engagement Data
  - LINKS Curriculum – Functional Routines
- Middle/High School Classrooms in Center-base
  - Unique Learning Systems – Core Curriculum/Pre-Vocational/Daily Living
  - LINKS Curriculum – Functional Routines
  - Peer to Peer Supports – Social & Engagement Data
  - FBA/BSP Data, Team Meetings
- Transition Program
  - Community Based Instruction – Independent Living (groceries, restaurants, leisure, community events)
  - Vocational Skill Development – O*Net Online, BYF, School to Career, paid and unpaid employment
  - Connectedness with county services – MRS, CMH, Disability Network,
  - Unique Learning Systems – Vocational/Daily Living
  - LINKS Curriculum – Functional Routines
  - FBA/BSP Data, Team Meetings

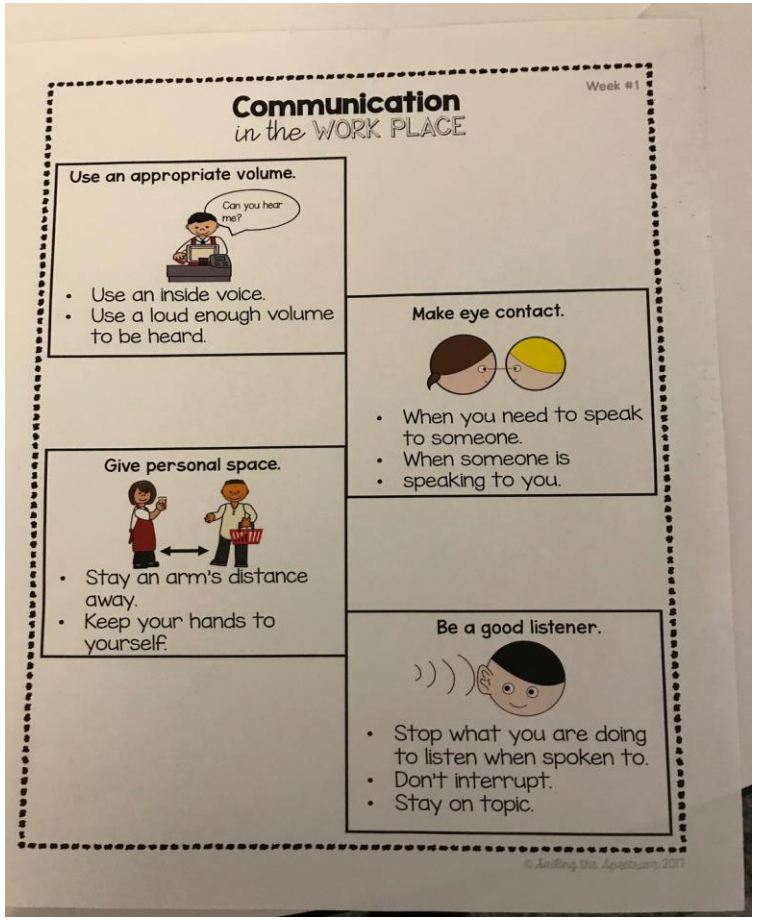
Organization - Independent Work Spaces

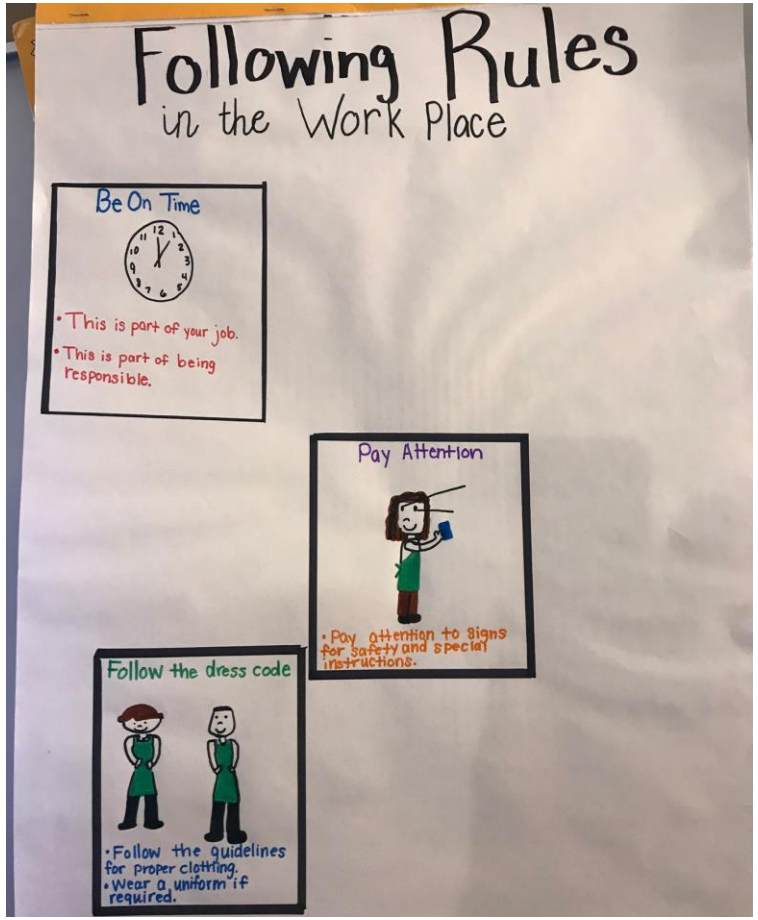
Organization ~ Tools for Independence



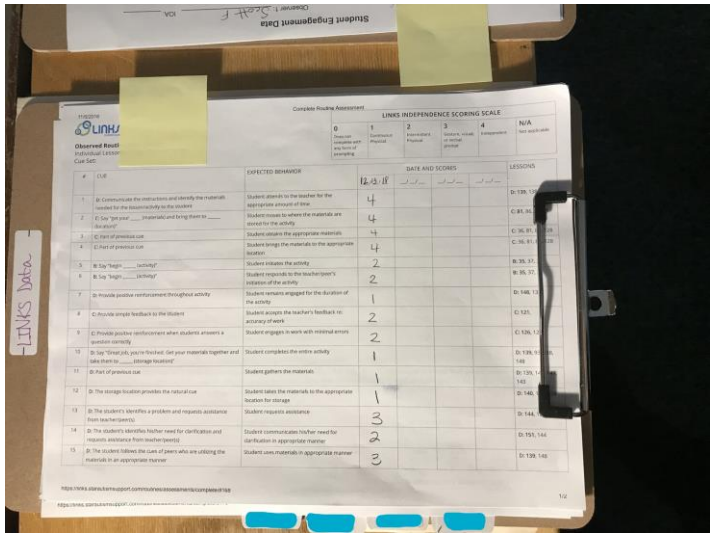


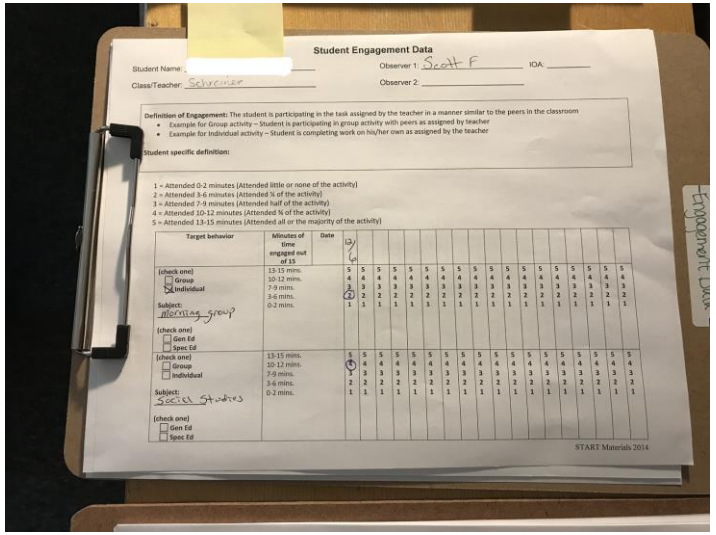
Community Supports



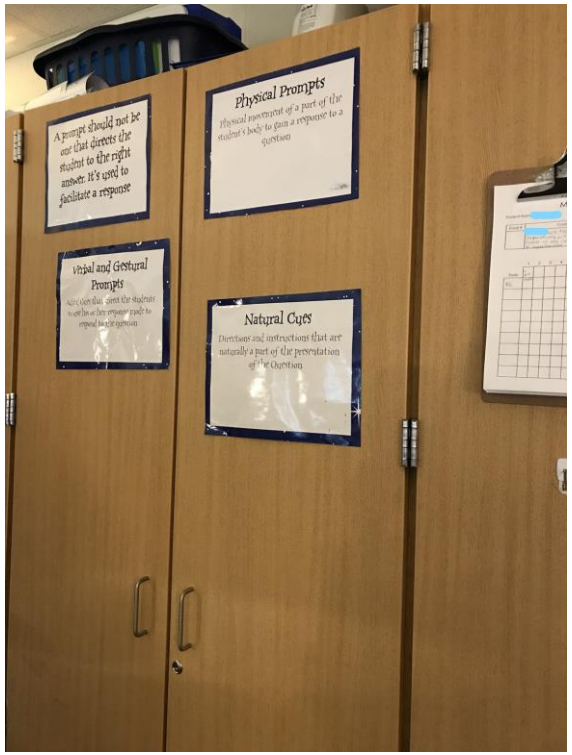


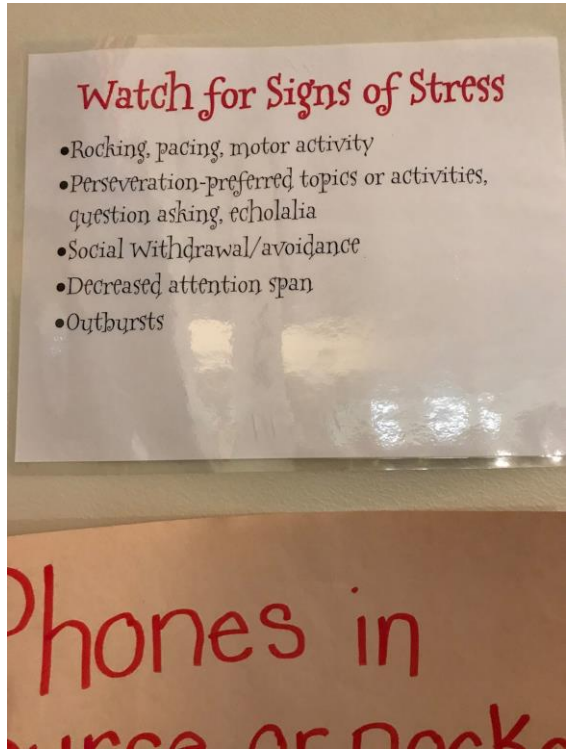
Data Tools/Schedules

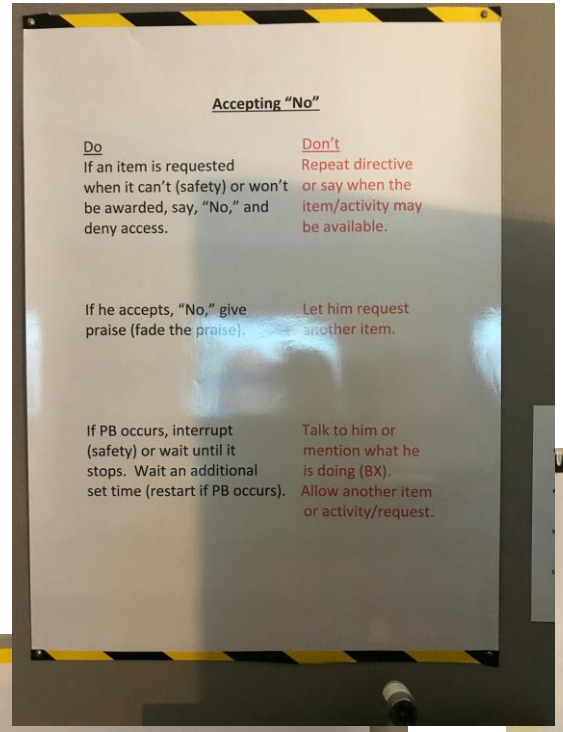


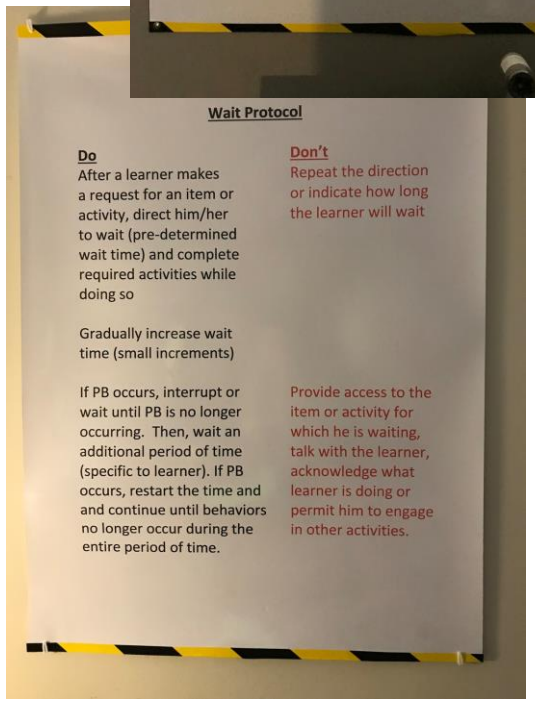


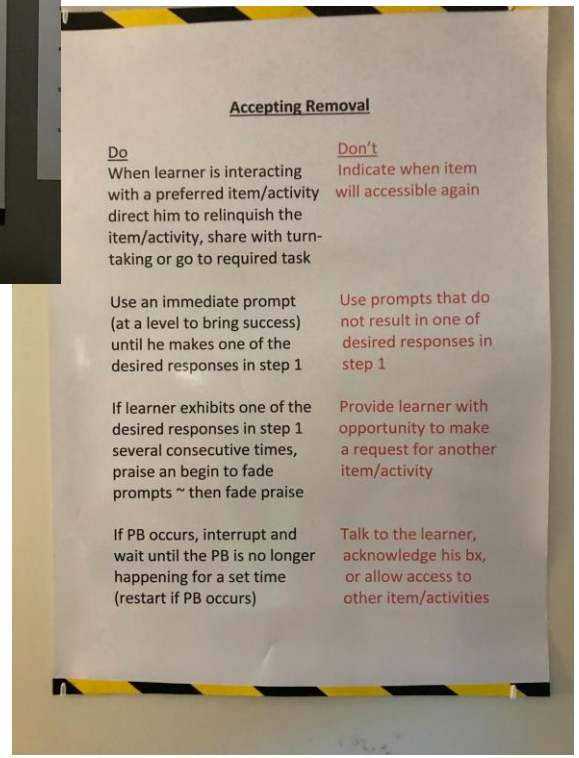
Staff Supports



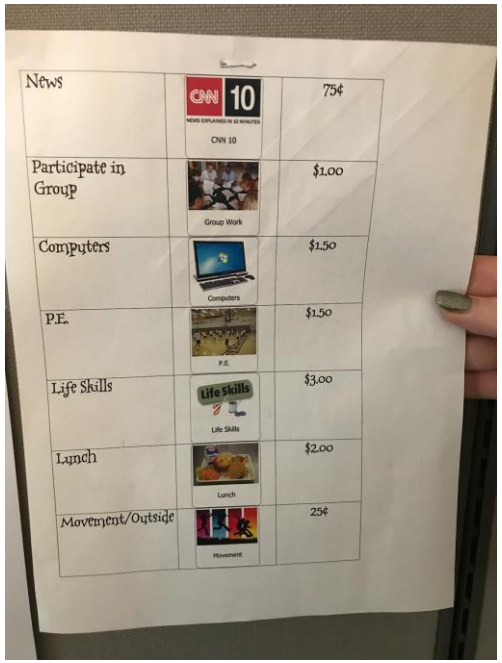


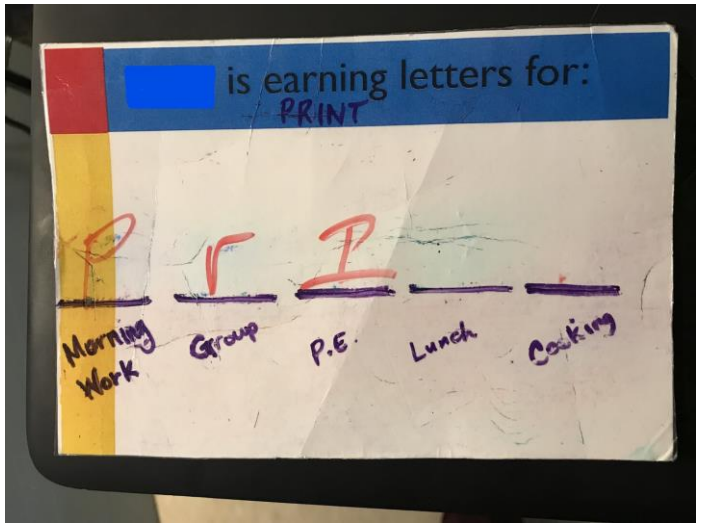


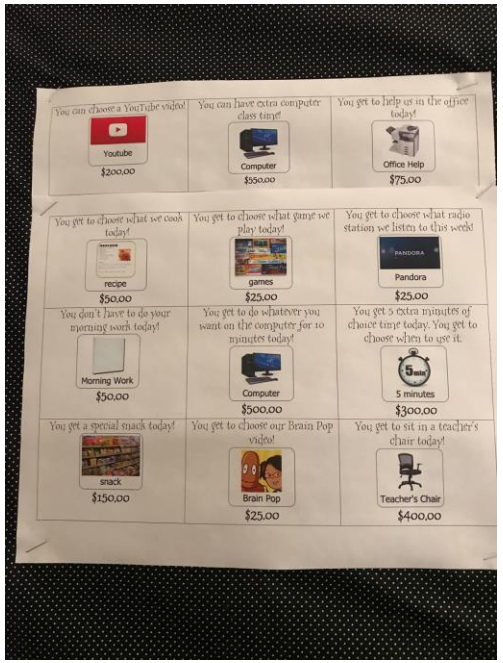




Reinforcement Tools







Barriers

- Administrative Support
- Staff Resistance
- Staff Turnover

Current Projects

- Para Learning Communities – Expanding naturalistic teaching strategies throughout day
- Transition RBT – Students back to locals
- Project SEARCH

References &Resources

Baer, D.M., Wolf, M.M., & Risley, T.R. (1968). Some current dimensions of applied behavior analysis. Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. 1, 91-97.

Essentials for Living. https://www.essentialforliving.com/

Links Curriculum. http://linkscurriculum.com/

National Autism Center (2009). National Standards Project findings and conclusions: Addressing the need for evidence-based practice guidelines for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Randolph, MA: National Autism Center.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training. https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/

Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research (STAR Curriculum). https://starautismsupport.com/