



The Journal of ASA Broward

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Home Programs Presented at ASA Broward

By Denise Crosnick

David Garcia, M.S., BCBA of Behavior Analysis, Inc., gave a very detailed presentation on home programs. This article is a summary of Mr. Garcia's presentation and the written materials he provided the audience.

First, Mr. Garcia discussed "Critical Components of an Effective Home Program". The components specifically include: assessment of the child's repertoire, functional curriculum, appropriate teaching method, appropriate data collection methods, competency-based staff training, monitoring child's progress, monitoring staff performance, adjusting the program, integrate with reduction needs and working with a consultant.

The first component is assessing the child's repertoire. Mr. Garcia likened it to the foundation of a building—without it a building would not stand. First, "A thorough assessment is necessary to determine the child's current level and to develop a curriculum," said Mr. Garcia. Next, assess current levels of performance in the following areas: behavior repertoire (i.e. aggression, self-stimulation), language skills, and other skills (i.e. social, self-care).

Assessment tools recommended by Mr. Garcia include: "The Behavioral Language Assessment" and "The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills" both by Sundert and Partington.



"Upon completion of this you will know what to teach the child next," stated Mr. Garcia.

A functional curriculum must be designed once the assessment is completed. According to Mr. Garcia, "The most important, functional skill to teach first is showing the child how to get what he wants". For example, a child needs to know how to communicate that he's hungry and what he wants to eat. In total, usually three to five skills are focused on.

When designing a functional curriculum remember the following: 1. skills must be functional for that child, 2. only teach skills that will be used and reinforced in post-training environment, 3. skills should be taught in approximate developmental se-

quence, and 4. prerequisite skills should be taught explicitly.

Use appropriate teaching methods. Knowing how to teach is just as important as knowing what to teach. This includes: giving instructions, reinforcing correct performance, creating reinforcers, reinforcement schedules, prompt-fading prompts and teaching for generalization/maintenance.

Next is the selection of appropriate data collection methods. Probes: On the first trial of the day, provide instruction, record whether the response was correct or incorrect. Then begin teaching (this means no more data). Daily rate of verbal responses: All persons count selected verbal responses all day. When multiple responses are required of the child: record number correct and incorrect responses during 15, 30 or 60 second intervals. Plot both measures on the Standard Behavior Chart. Appropriate response rates depend on the skill being taught.

Monitoring the child's progress is next in the sequence of home programming. Frequent review of progress is critical. Data should be plotted daily. Progress should be formally evaluated weekly or bi-weekly.

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SAVE THE DATE!
**For the National Alliance
for Autism Research's
2005 Broward
WALK F.A.R. for NAAR**

**THE WALK F.A.R. for NAAR
Walk and Festival**
Saturday, April 9, 2005
at Nova Southeastern University
9:00 a.m. Registration - 10:00
a.m. Walk Start

Online registration
www.naar.org, email
jmerens@naar.org, Office
phone 954-421-9997

David Garcia Explains Home Programs

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Decision to continue, move to maintenance or discontinue should be made for each program. If there is no progress for one to two weeks, observe sessions for implementation errors. Mr. Garcia stresses, "Expect progress".

Performance monitoring procedure is crucial. Monitoring should be conducted by a consultant, parent or other therapist. Use a checklist to observe certain performance skills, for example, reinforcing

Scoring for correct and incorrect performance on each skill should be completed. Descriptions of correct and incorrect performance should be recorded. Finally, demonstrate correct performance and have them practice it.

Monitoring therapist performance is critical to the success of the program. Performance should be monitored routinely. Constructive performance monitoring should be a stated, routine part of the job. Mr. Garcia has good advice those implementing the program. "Encourage others

to watch you teach or video-tape yourself. You can learn a lot from that".

In conclusion, know when to adjust the program. It should be adjusted when the child meets criteria for mastery, the child meets the criteria for maintenance and generalization or if the child is not progressing and observations indicate the program is being run correctly.

Mr. Garcia concluded the presentation with a question and answer session.

CARD Parent and Professional Lecture Series: Broward

Coping with Stress in Raising a Child with a Disability

Presenters: Brian Roselione, M.S., BCABA and Luis Grana, M.S.

Date: March 11, 2005 Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center, 2900 South Commerce Parkway, Weston 33311

Registration: 954-262-7111

Description: This presentation will discuss the stresses involved in raising a child with a disability and specific coping strategies to reduce stressors and increase family unity.

Dan Marino Center IEP Work Groups

Transition IEP Work Group (14-22 years of age)

Presenter: Herm Fishbein, Ed.D

Date: March 9, 2005 Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center, 2900 South Commerce Parkway, Weston 33311

Registration: 954-262-7111

How to Participate in Creating Your Child's IEP

Presenter: Marlene Schuelfand, M.S. MT-BC, BCABA

Date: April 9, 2005 Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center, 2900 South Commerce Parkway, Weston 33311

Registration: 954-262-7111

Description for IEP Work Groups: This hands-on workshop will help parents to write present levels of performance, annual goals and modifications for an Individual Education Plan. Bring your child's IEP.

Advertisements

ADVERTISE WITH US—our newsletter is circulated to over 350 people, families and/or professionals throughout the community. Advertising space is available as follows:

business card size	-----	\$25
¼ page	-----	\$50
½ page	-----	\$75
full page	-----	\$150

Membership

Please check your address label for expiration date. If applicable, please send your membership dues to our PO Box address. Don't forget to make any necessary changes.

Thank you for your support!

Due to budget constraints, we will not be able to send you a newsletter if your dues are not current.

Thank You!

Special "thank you" to GRACA for meeting each month to assemble and label newsletters for distribution.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE ADULTS FROM THE ARC ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM for volunteering their time and effort as well. Your tireless contribution is greatly appreciated!

ASA Broward especially thanks chapter member Denise Karp for maintaining a free informational list serve for all persons interested in Autism. IT'S YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR AUTISM RELATED INFO IN SOUTH FLORIDA E-mail Denise at deniseslist@yahoo.com to subscribe.

Recreational Activities

The Broward Autism Foundation is pleased to be able to offer for chapter members partial scholarships for selectively sponsored recreational programs. Please contact the following for additional information:

Tag Gymnastics Alicia Murphy (954) 943-8659

Incredible Ice (ice skating) Carol DiMauro (954) 962-0901

Project Stable Horseback Riding Eileen Roth (954) 474-5333

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for assisting in set up and clean up duties for our monthly meetings. Please contact our Hospitality Chairperson, Judi Steinberg at (954) 577-4141 if interested.

Support Groups

SPEC (Support for Parents of Exceptional Children)

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month (7:00) at the Dan Marino Center in Weston, Florida. For more details please contact Laura House at (954) 893-5553.

GRACA (Grandparents and relatives of Autistic Children and Adults)

Please contact Roz Bellman for meeting dates and times at (954) 720-5683.

CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities)

Please contact the CARD center directly at (800) 9-AUTISM and register to be on their mailing list. CARD hosts many informative workshops and conferences, addressing a variety of issues and needs.

ACE (Autism Committee for ESE)

This school advisory meeting is held the third Wednesday of every month (9:00a.m.) at the Baudhuin School in Davie. Call Stacey Hoaglund for more details at (954) 252-8764.

South Florida Fragile X Resource Group

Please contact Randy Green for meeting dates and times at (954) 433-5413.

Adult Transition Group

Please contact Eileen Roth for meeting dates and times at (954) 474-5333.

Fundraising

The Broward Chapter of the Autism Society has a variety of NEW gift items available to help in our fundraising efforts:

NEW logo EMBROIDERED T-shirts	-----	\$12 each
NEW Autism Remembrance "Brie" Bears	-----	\$10 each
Puzzle pins	-----	\$10 each
Angel cards (Qty 10)	-----	\$16 pack

Also, don't forget that donation cards are available for "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of". All gift items can be purchased at the monthly chapter meetings or by calling the ASA office @ (954)577-4141.



Membership—ASA Broward Chapter (Please Print) This amount includes local, state and national dues

Individual \$50.00 Family \$60.00 Full-time Student \$35.00 (copy of current registration as evidence of full-time status)

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Parent Professional Occupation _____ F/T Student Location _____

Relative or Friend of: Child's Name _____

Residence: Home Group Home _____ Other _____

School, Job or Workshop Name _____ Grade _____

Are you willing to be part of our referral and Information Network? (yes/no) _____ On a committee (yes/no) _____

Do you give ASA Broward Chapter permission to put your name on the U of M CARD Center mailing list (yes/no) _____

Other comments or suggestions? _____

Please send your check made payable to Broward Chapter / Autism Society. PO Box 450476, Sunrise, Florida 33345

Public Notice: The Broward Autism Foundation and the Autism Society are publicly supported organizations under the IRS Section 501(c)(3). A copy of the exemption, determination letter and tax returns are available for public inspection at our home office with advance notice.

BROWARD AUTISM FOUNDATION AND PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 496, FL STATUTES "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES, BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

REGISTRATION # sc-07923. 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RECEIVED BY THE BROWARD AUTISM FOUNDATION.

**Autism Society of America
Broward Chapter**

**PO Box 450476
Sunrise, FL 33345
Phone: 954-577-4141
E-Mail: info@asabroward.org**

**Our Next Meeting: March 16, 2005
Summer Camp Options**

**7:30pm at ARC Broward, 10250 NW 53rd Street, Building #2, Sunrise
(One block south of Commercial between Nob Hill and Hiatus Road)**

Speakers: Representatives from several local camps.

Our meetings are open to all that are interested in autism.

Refreshments will be served. Child care is available by reservation only.

Please call 954-577-4141.

