



# Advanced Staff Training and Test of Competency

## Overview

**Advanced Staff Training and Test of Competency** is designed for care providers who have had basic ABA training or exposure. This set of lessons is appropriate for training new behavioral technicians (including those wishing to become Registered Behavior Technicians), classroom aides, teachers, parents, or other care providers. The lessons cover all the basic principles to begin providing ABA in the home, classroom, clinic, hospital, or community. Lessons include how to deliver reinforcement, prompting, shaping behavior, managing behavior, delivering discrete trial or incidental teaching interventions, data collection and management, relationship building and communication with clients/students, professional behavior and supervision, and ethical considerations. Each module is delivered through simple written and vocal instruction accompanied by straight forward videos that demonstrate and model how to deliver each piece of ABA instruction. Video modeling has been shown to be a quick and effective method for professional training\*. Each module offers a short quiz to assess the learner's knowledge of what they were just taught. These quizzes help to ensure that the learner was paying attention and that they understood what they were just taught. This combination of instruction, video modeling, and assessment offers an evidence-based and motivating method of professional training.

\*Article: Video Modeling to Train Staff to Implement Discrete-Trial Instruction (Catania, Almeida, Liu-Constant, & Reed, 2009)  
<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ853191.pdf>

### Rethink's Advanced Staff Training and Test of Competency includes:

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- Training in knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
  - Embedded quiz questions and a competency test at the end of each training module
  - Certificate of completion once a passing score is achieved on each competency test
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### Topics

#### **Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis**

To describe the components of ABA, the 7 dimensions of ABA, the core features of ABA, and to dispel myths about ABA.

Duration: 87 minutes

RBT Task: B-01 Describe the behavior and environment in observable and measurable terms

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#### **Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder**

To describe the common characteristics of ASD, facts about ASD, how ASD is diagnosed, and some well-known ABA interventions for ASD.

Duration: 143 minutes

RBT Task: C-01 Implement discrete-trial procedures; C-05 Implement naturalistic teaching procedures (e.g. incidental teaching)

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#### **Relationship Building**

To understand the importance of client relationships, how to establish yourself as a reinforcer, how to effectively communicate with clients, and how to evaluate your ability to have positive relationships.

Duration: 56 minutes

RBT Task: F-03 Communicate with stakeholders (e.g. family, caregivers, other professionals) as authorized; F-05 Maintain client dignity

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#### **Reinforcement**

To understand and properly implement various types of contingent reinforcement.

Duration: 189 minutes

RBT Task: C-03 Use contingencies of reinforcement (e.g. conditioned/unconditioned reinforcement, continuous/intermittent schedules)

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#### **Shaping**

To describe shaping and key features and to implement shaping procedures.

Duration: 47 minutes

RBT Task: C-07 Implement discrimination training

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#### **Prompting**

To understand and implement different types of prompting and prompt fading.

Duration: 64 minutes

RBT Task: C-10 Implement prompt and prompt fading procedures

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### **Discrete Trial Teaching**

To understand and implement the components and steps of DTT and to properly implement DTT procedures.

Duration: 69 minutes

RBT Task: C-04 Implement discrete trial teaching procedures

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### **Incidental Teaching**

To understand the components and implement naturalistic teaching procedures.

Duration: 82 minutes

RBT Task: C-05 Implement naturalistic teaching procedures (i.e. incidental teaching)

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### **Motivating Operations**

To identify motivating operations and the 4 term contingency and to implement motivating operations for skill acquisition and reducing problem behaviors.

Duration: 177 minutes

RBT Task: D-03 Implement interventions based on modification of antecedents such as motivating/establishing operations and discrimination stimuli

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### **Behavior Chains and Chaining Procedures**

To identify and implement behavior chaining procedures including how to use a task analysis, forward and backward chaining, and graduated guidance.

Duration: 98 minutes

RBT Task: C-06 Implement task analyzed chaining procedures

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### **Choosing Reinforcers: Preference Assessments**

To understand how to know if something is reinforcing and how to implement a reinforcer preference assessment.

Duration: 99 minutes

RBT Task: B-02 Conduct preference assessments

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### **Stimulus Control and Prompt Fading**

To understand stimulus control and how to implement fading procedures for stimulus prompts.

Duration: 79 minutes

RBT Task: C-08 Implement stimulus control transfer procedures; C-09 Implement stimulus fading procedures; C-10 Implement prompt and prompt fading procedures

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### Data Collection

To understand and demonstrate how to collect the various types of data collection.

Duration: 72 minutes

RBT Task: A-01 Prepare for Data Collection; A-02 Implement continuous measurement procedures (e.g. frequency, duration); A-03 Implement discontinuous measurement procedures (e.g. partial & whole interval, momentary time sampling); A-04 Implement permanent product recording procedures

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### Graphs and What They Tell Us

To understand and demonstrate how to enter data and create common ABA graphs.

Duration: 93 minutes

RBT A-05 Enter data and update graphs

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### Skill Acquisition Programs

To understand and implement skill acquisition programs including following a written plan, preparing for sessions, conducting sessions, and evaluating successful implementation.

Duration: 68 minutes

RBT Task: C-01 Identify the essential components of a written skill acquisition plan; C-02 Prepare for the session as required by the skill acquisition plan

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### Describing Behavior

To understand and demonstrate how to objectively observe and describe behavior.

Duration: 67 minutes

RBT Task: B-01 Describe the behavior and environment in observable and measurable terms

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### Function & Assessment of Problem Behavior

To understand the components and assist with the implementation of a Functional Assessment and Behavior Reduction Plan.

Duration: 153 minutes

RBT Task: B-04 Assist with functional assessment procedures; D-01 Identify the essential components of a written behavior reduction plan; D-02 Describe common functions of behavior

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### Common Interventions for Problem Behavior

To understand and implement various interventions for reducing behavior problems.

Duration: 157 minutes

RBT Task: D-03 Implement interventions based on modification of antecedents such as motivating/establishing operations and discrimination stimuli; D-04 Implement differential reinforcement procedures (e.g. DRA/DRO); D-05 Implement extinction procedures; D-06 Implement crisis/emergency procedures according to protocol

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### Generalization & Maintenance Part 1

To understand generalization and the various types of generalization; to understand and demonstrate how to incorporate generalization into treatment plans.

Duration: 102 minutes

RBT Task: C-11 Implement generalization and maintenance procedures

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### Generalization & Maintenance Part 2

To identify potential issues that may arise with generalization; to understand and demonstrate how to assess generalization; to understand and implement maintenance procedures; and to understand and demonstrate how to plan for generalization.

Duration: 115 minutes

RBT Task: C-11 Implement generalization and maintenance procedures

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### Assessments and the Role of the RBT

To understand the role of the RBT in the assessment process and to demonstrate how to assist with assessments.

Duration: 65 minutes

RBT Task: B-03 Assist with individualized assessment procedures (e.g. curriculum-based, developmental, social skills); E-01 Report other variables that might affect the client (e.g. illness, relocation, medication); E-02 Generate objective session notes by describing what occurred during sessions; E-03 Effectively communicate with supervisor; E-04 Comply with applicable legal, regulatory and workplace reporting requirements (e.g. mandatory abuse and neglect reporting); E-05 Comply with applicable legal, regulatory and workplace requirements for data collection, storage, and transportation

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### Discrimination Training

To understand and demonstrate how to make discriminations, discrimination training steps, and evaluating effectiveness of discrimination training.

Duration: 49 minutes

RBT Task: C-07 Implement discrimination training

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### Assisting with Training Care Providers

To understand the importance and how to provide care provider training and demonstrate how to assist in training including communication, data collection, and professionalism.

Duration: 41 minutes

RBT Task: F-02 Respond appropriately to feedback and maintain or improve performance accordingly; F-04 Maintain professional boundaries (e.g. avoid dual relationships, conflicts of interest, social media contacts); F-05 Maintain client dignity

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### Ethical and Professional Behaviors Part 1

To understand guidelines for supervision, how to accept and maximize supervisor feedback, the BACB code of ethics, and professional conduct.

Duration: 158 minutes

RBT Task: F-02 Respond appropriately to feedback and maintain or improve performance accordingly; F-04 Maintain professional boundaries (e.g. avoid dual relationships, conflicts of interest, social media contacts); F-05 Maintain client dignity

### Ethical and Professional Behaviors Part 2

To understand ethical issues with documentation and reporting, and to understand the role of the RBT in the profession of behavior analysis.

Duration: 110 minutes

RBT Task: E-04 Comply with applicable legal, regulatory and workplace reporting requirements (e.g. mandatory abuse and neglect reporting); E-05 Comply with applicable legal, regulatory and workplace requirements for data collection, storage, and transportation

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## Total Training Time: 40 hours

### Professional References Supporting Rethink

Rethink's independent Scientific Advisory Board, consisting of leading international experts in the field of autism and ABA, provides input and editorial review of training content:

<https://www.rethinkbehavioralhealth.com/Home/AdvisoryBoard>

Rethink's video-based training content is featured as "best practice" by the Association for Science in Autism Treatment on their website:

<http://www.asatonline.org/research-treatment/resources/videos/>

Rethink's platform is used by the U.S. Department of Defense on military bases worldwide providing services to individuals with autism and related disabilities:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/department-of-defense-selects-rethink-autism-educational-platform-for-military-base-schools-worldwide-132686003.html>

Rethink's platform is used by leading school districts throughout the United States, including San Francisco Unified, Denver Public Schools and New York City Department of Education, the largest school system in the country:

<https://www.rethinkfirst.com/Home/SuccessStories>