Learning Guide



Take Flight

Empowering educators and equipping learners with ASD to soar



Behavioural Skills
Training for Learners

Behavioural Skills Training (Learners)		
Step 1	VERBAL & WRITTEN INSTRUCTION Describe the skill you want the learner to perform in terms that will be easily understood, based on the learner's individual strengths and needs	
Step 2	MODELING Demonstrate, or model, the skill for the learner in a role-play situation or using a video model	
Step 3	PRACTICE / REHEARSAL Have the learner practice the skill in a role-play situation	
Step 4	PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK Give specific positive praise for the components performed correctly, and corrective feedback for components that need more practice	
Step 5	Observe the learner performing the skill in the natural environment and provide feedback and additional practice if necessary	



Behavioural Skills Training (Learners)		
	VERBAL & WRITTEN INSTRUCTION Task analyze and define the steps of the skill clearly	
Stop 1	 Explain to the learner how to perform the skill in language they understand 	
Step 1	Explain to the learner flow to perform the skill in language they understand Explain the rationale for / importance of the skill to the learner if appropriate	
	Visual supports or social narratives may be helpful for some learners	
	Consider the learner's use of language	
	MODELING	
	Demonstrate for the learner how to perform the skill	
	Be sure that the learner is paying attention to the model	
	The learner should observe the skill being performed accurately and successfully	
	The complexity of the skill performed by the model should be at a level that can	
Step 2	be understood and performed by the learner	
31CP 2	The model should portray what a typical learner would say and do in the context	
	in which the skill would be performed	
	The skill can be modeled by an adult or a peer, and may be demonstrated live or	
	using a video model	
	For some learners, observing correct and incorrect examples of the skill, and	
	identifying correct and incorrect performances and components may be helpful	
	PRACTICE / REHEARSAL	
	Provide an opportunity for the learner to practice the skill in a safe environment	
Step 3	Support the learner to practice the skill several times	
	Prompt as needed to help the learner perform the skill correctly	
	End on a correct response, or if the learner has not entirely mastered the skill, end	
	with a positive performance and specific praise for components done correctly	
	PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK	
	Provide immediate feedback each time the learner practices the skill	
	Focus on aspects of the skill performed correctly	
	Provide ample descriptive praise for correct demonstration of the skill or for	
Step 4	components of the skill performed correctly	
	If the learner does not demonstrate the skill correctly, or misses some steps, it	
	may be helpful to have the learner go through each step and identify whether it	
	was performed correctly or not	
	Help the learner identify corrective strategies for components of the skill that still	
	need improvement; phrase feedback for improvement positively	
	OBSERVATION IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	
	Once the skill is mastered in practice, it still needs to be practiced in the natural	
Step 5	environment	
Jiep J	Parents, members of the school team, and others can prompt practice throughout	
	the day	
	Provide others with the skill steps so they know what to prompt and praise	
	Build in additional reinforcement for practicing the skill in natural environments	



Behavioural Skills Training (Learners) Checklist		
Step 1	Did the staff member:	
VERBAL & WRITTEN INSTRUCTION	 □ task analyze and define the steps of the skill clearly? □ explain to the learner how to perform the skill in language they understand? □ explain the rationale for / importance of the skill to the learner, if appropriate? □ use visual supports or social narratives, if appropriate for the learner? □ consider the learner's use of language? 	
	Did the staff member:	
Step 2 MODELING	 □ demonstrate for the learner how to perform the skill? □ check to be sure that the learner was paying attention to the model? □ ensure that the complexity of the skill was at a level that could be understood and performed by the learner? □ portray what a typical learner would say and do in the natural context? 	
	Did the staff member:	
	Did the staff member:	
Step 3	provide an opportunity for the learner to practice the skill in a safe environment?	
PRACTICE /	☐ support the learner to practice the skill several times?	
REHEARSAL	 provide prompts (if necessary) to help the learner perform the skill correctly? end on a correct response, or if the learner did not entirely mastered the skill, end with a positive performance and praise for components performed well? 	
	Did the staff member:	
Step 4 PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK	 □ provide immediate feedback each time the learner practiced the skill? □ focus on aspects of the skill performed correctly? □ provide ample descriptive praise for correct demonstration of the skill or for components of the skill performed correctly? □ help the learner identify corrective strategies for components of the skill that still need improvement? □ phrase feedback for improvement positively? 	
Step 5	Did the staff member:	
OBSERVATION IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	 □ build in additional reinforcement for practicing the skill in natural environments? □ provide others with the skill steps so they know what to prompt and praise? 	





The Autism in Education (AIE) Partnership is an inter-provincial collaboration of the Departments of Education & Early Childhood Development / Early Learning & Culture of the four Atlantic Provinces. Created as a new initiative of the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) in 2010, the AIE Partnership provides support to educational personnel working with students with ASD across the Atlantic region and facilitates the sharing of information and expertise among stakeholders. Priorities of the AIE Partnership include:

- Research to clarify and articulate standards of practice in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Dissemination of information and current research on issues of concern among the four Atlantic Provinces
- Professional development and learning opportunities for educational staff, partner professionals, and families



Fax: 902-423-8700

aie.apsea.ca

Email: aie@apsea.ca

Tel: 902-423-8418

5940 South Street Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 1S6