Using the Behavioral Objective Sequence To Develop Effective Assessment-Based Interventions For Children And Youth With Challenging Behaviors

With

Sheldon Braaten, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Behavioral Institute for Children and Adolescents

3585 Lexington Ave. N. Suite 163 Arden Hills, MN 55126 651-484-5510

sbraaten@behavioralinstitute.org

www.behavioralinstitute.org

Using the *Behavioral Objective Sequence* to Develop Effective Assessment-Based Interventions For Children And Youth With Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

Sheldon Braaten, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Behavioral Institute for Children and Adolescents
Arden Hills, MN

Workshop for CAPSEF Conference March 21, 2007

Workshop Description

Students with emotional and behavioral disorders present particularly complex management and discipline and intervention issues. Unfortunately, the current focus is often on how to suppress or manage the many diverse problems these youth present, while little attention is given to contributing factors, or to the developmentally insensitive manor in which they are treated in schools and elsewhere. This workshop will focus on using the *Behavioral Objective Sequence* for integrating assessment into a model for determining students' level of social development, and for preparing intervention plans that are effective and developmentally appropriate.

Agenda:

- Characteristics of Students with Problem Behaviors: Contributing Factors and Implications for Assessment and Intervention
- Assessing Developmental Level of Social Performance: Identifying Developmentally Appropriate Objectives
- The Curriculum for Teaching Prosocial Competencies
- Preparing Assessment-based and Developmentally Appropriate Intervention Plans
- Preparing Coordinated School-Community Agency Intervention Plans

Skill Areas: Participants will learn...

- to integrate various assessment data into a developmental assessment
- how to select developmentally appropriate behavioral goals and objectives
- how to link goals and objectives to developmentally appropriate intervention plans
- how to integrate learning-based curriculums for social development into intervention plans
- how to use practical tools for monitoring progress and making adjustments in intervention plans
- how to coordinate school and community agency intervention resources with students' objectives

Intended Audience: special educators, school psychologists, social workers, administrators,

S DI dalcii		
SUBJECTIVE JUDGEMENT PROGRESS INVENTORIES	OBJECTIVE AND CONTINUOUS MONITORING	EVALUATION
"THERAPY"	MANAGED LEARNING	TREATMENT
ABATEMENT OF SYMPTOMS	COMPETENCIES	TREATMENT GOALS
ETIOLOGY, PROGNOSIS PRESCRIPTION	DECISION MAKING PRESCRIPTION	FUNCTION
LABELING	SKILL NEEDS	FOCUS
COMPARE	STRENGTHS & DEFICITS LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING	ORIENTATION
INTERVIEWS, HISTORY FORMAL & INFORMAL TESTS NOMOTHETIC	OBSERVATION, INTERVIEW FORMAL & INFORMAL TESTS IDIOGRAPHIC	SOURCE
NORM REFERENCE SYMPTOMS	CRITERION REFERENCE CLEAR, CONCISE DESCRIPTION	DATA
DIAGNOSIS	ASSESSMENT	
DIAGNOSIS	ASSESSMENT vs DIAGNOSIS	

STUDENTS WITH SED/EBD

EXTREMES OF ANY KIND OF BEHAVIOR:

Too fast or too slow
Too brave or too fearful
Too serious or too silly
Too active or too passive
Too giddy or too unhappy
Too noisy or too quiet
Too intense or too apathetic
Too excitable or too phlegmatic
Etc.

Eleanor Guetzloe



TOO.... A definition

They do....
Too much or too little of particular behaviors,
To often,
With too many different kinds of problems,
In too many places,
With too many people,
For too long a period of time,
Requiring too many interventions,
Resulting in too little change.

Sheldon Braaten



CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WITH EBD

BEHAVIORAL

DEFICITS

EXCESSES

		IN TOO MANY	ENV.	IRONMENTS
Т	INTERNALIZER	CONTRIBUTING EXPRESSING FEELINGS DEALING WITH STRESS ASSERTIVENESS JOINING IN NEGOTIATING PROBLEM SOLVING REWARDING SELF HAVING FUN	T O O	FEARS ISOLATION SHYNESS SELF-CONSCIOUS OVERLY SENSITIVE MOODY OBSESSIONS DEPRESSION SELF-BLAMING
Y P E	EXTERNALIZER	OVER TOO LONG O LISTENING ASKING FOR HELP FOLLOW DIRECTIONS IGNORING SETTING GOALS ACCEPTING "NO" MAKING DECISIONS PROBLEM SOLVING NEGOTIATING RELAXING SELF-MANAGEMENT	F A D F A D F R E Q U E N T L Y	ARGUES, LIES AGGRESSION DEMANDING DISRUPTIVE DISTRACTABLE TEMPER TANTRUMS NONCOMPLIANCE RESTLESS PROPERTY DAMAGE RUN AWAY-TRUANT STEALING
		TOO UNRESPONSIVE TO	TYP	ICAL INTERVENTIONS

INTERVENTION

THERAPY = LEARNING SKILLS
NEEDS = CURRICULUM
TREATMENT PLAN = STRATEGIES & TACTICS = EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION
GOALS = TRANSFER & MAINTENANCE

PERSONAL SKILLS

COMPETENCY = MASTERY = PROFICIENCY FUNCTIONAL = MEETS A NEED = CAN BE DONE RELEVANT = PERSONALLY MEANINGFUL STRENGTH-BASED = SUCCESS BUILDING DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE = AGE = ABILITY = INTEREST GENERALIZABLE = TO SETTINGS = TO CONDITIONS

THE CURRICULUM

- **⇒ BASIC ACADEMICS**
- ⇒ SOCIAL SCIENCES
- **⇒** CAREER-VOCATIONAL
- \Rightarrow ARTS
- **⇒** RECREATION
- ⇒ PERSONAL CARE
- \Rightarrow INTERPERSONAL
- ⇒ INTRAPERSONAL

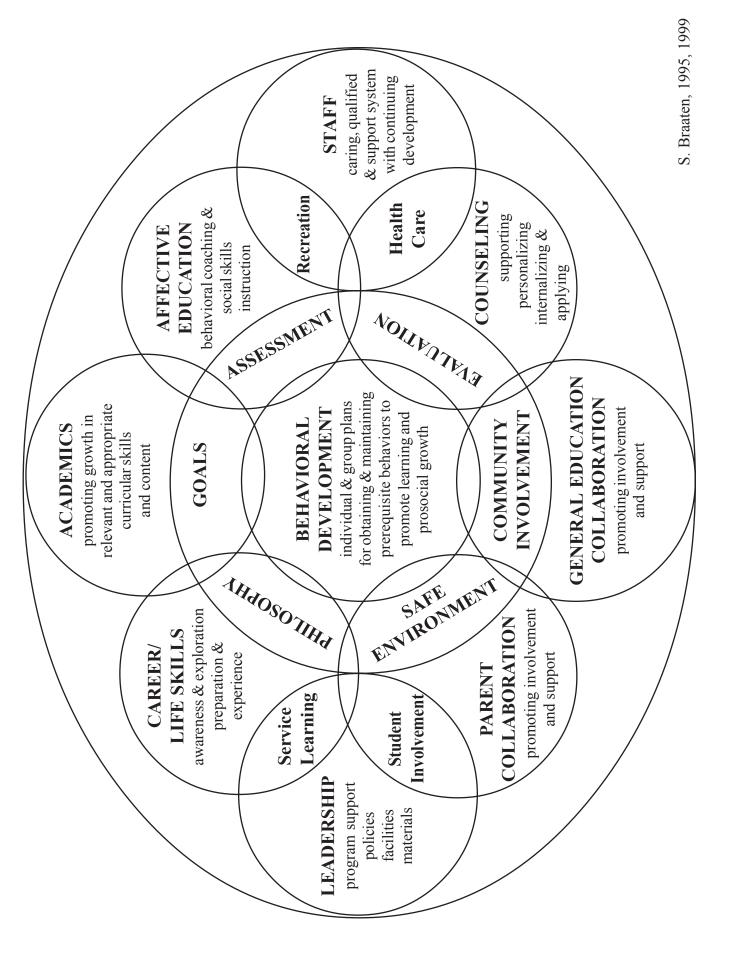
INTRAPERSONAL SKILLS

- **⇒** ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS
- **⇒** STUDY SKILLS
- ⇒ PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS
- **⇒** GOAL SETTING SKILLS
- **⇒** ANGER CONTROL SKILLS
- ⇒ SELF- CONTROL SKILLS
- ⇒ STRESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS
- **⇒** MORAL REASONING SKILLS
- **⇒** SELF-ACCEPTANCE

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS A. GOLDSTEIN

- ⇒ SOCIAL SKILL TRAINING
- **⇒** SITUATIONAL PERCEPTION TRAINING
- **⇒** EMPATHY TRAINING
- **⇒** COOPERATION TRAINING
- **⇒** BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TRAINING
- **⇒** RECRUITING SUPPORTIVE MODELS
- ⇒ UNDERSTANDING & USING GROUPS

EBD PROGRAMMING COMPONENTS



Behavioral Objective Sequence

Sheldon Braaten, Ph.D.

Abstract

Accurate assessment of behavioral skills is essential in developing effective intervention programs for students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD). Assessment is the foundation for determining individually relevant intervention goals, objectives and plans, as well as for monitoring intervention outcomes. Several criteria for effective assessment have been identified in the literature. Among them are use of multiple sources (i.e., teachers and other professionals, parents, and students themselves) as well as use of culturally appropriate types of measurement instruments (intellectual, achievement and behavioral) and procedures (observations and interviews). Behavioral assessment traditionally focuses on identifying problem behaviors; however, it is important to determine students' existing strengths upon which new prosocial skills can be built. Few instruments focus upon student strengths.

Recently there has been an increasing emphasis on strength-based or competency-based assessment (Epstein, 1999). Some benefits of competency-based assessments are that they (a) yield information that can actually be used for individualized education program (IEP) planning; (b) provide a positive view of the student by specifying student strengths, and (c) delineate prosocial behaviors not yet mastered that require instruction and differential reinforcement. Epstein's Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale (BERS), Gresham and Elliott's Social Skills Rating System (SSRS), and the Walker-McConnell Scale are examples of other strength-based rating scales. DuPaul and Eckerts' (1994) review of seven studies of social skills training programs found that efficacious curricula emphasize student competencies as opposed to performance deficits.

Behavioral assessment instruments should present prosocial skills within an appropriate developmental sequence. Youth will have behavioral difficulties and skills that vary according to their progression through the developmental levels (Vernon, 1993). A delicate task of assessment is to distinguish between problems of children and youth that are considered "normal" at various developmental levels and problems outside of the "normal" range, and to determine intervention goals that are developmentally relevant rather than simply satisfying adults' expectations.

One instrument that is both strength-based and developmentally sequenced is the *Behavioral Objective Sequence* (Braaten, 1998). While it was developed and refined over a 20 year period and has been used for several years, little research has been conducted to investigate the validity of BOS ratings for students with EBD (Bloomberg & Braaten, 1989). The *Behavioral Objective Sequence* (BOS) consists of 233 developmentally sequenced and measurable social competencies that may be assessed through structured observation and/or by ratings of multiple sources. The BOS is a skill or strength-based tool rather than a problem or deficit-based instrument. Further, it provides goals and objectives for the development and implementation of intervention curriculum derived directly from a current performance assessment

Braaten, S. (1998). Behavioral Objective Sequence. Champaign, IL: Research Press

Rating Scale Guide

This Rating Scale Guide and the following Current Performance Form can be used to establish the student's current level of performance on the objectives. The *Behavioral Objective Sequence* items should be read carefully and literally. The examples are provided to add clarity to the intent of the objectives and to minimize the need for interpretation. Before conducting a rating, it is best to read through the entire instrument to become familiar with the scope and sequence of the objectives (skills) contained within the 233 items. Ratings should be based on direct observations over a period of 2 or more weeks. Ratings may be completed independently by individuals knowledgeable about the student, or ratings may represent the consensus of a team of observers. The scale **IS** a measure of how **FREQUENTLY** the student performs the skills. It **IS NOT** a measure of whether or not the student knows how to perform the skills.

Given your knowledge of the student and best judgment, rate each item on the Current Performance Form as follows:

The student demonstrates this objective...

- 0 = No basis for a judgment, don't know, or does not apply
- 1 = Never or rarely true (less than 30% of the time or opportunities)
- 2 = Sometimes true (between 30% and 60% of the time or opportunities)
- 3 = Often true (between 60% and 90% of the time or opportunities)
- 4 = Always or almost always true (90% or greater of the time or opportunities) This objective is mastered.

Use the rating of "0" as little as possible and only when you have no basis for a judgment or when it clearly does not apply in your setting.

A comparison of independently completed ratings will provide an opportunity to examine the possible situational effects of different settings on the student's behavior as well as variances in observers' perceptions that may offer helpful information for decisions about placement and intervention plans.

Current Performance Form

Page 1 of 3

Student	Teacher/Case M	anager	Date
Summary o	of: Baseline 6тн wк 12тн wк	_ 18тн wк	24тн wк 30тн wк 36тн wк
Termination	n Other		Performance Level: 32_1_
Adaptive: I	Responds appropriately to	Self-Mana	ngement: Responds with
	d new expectations		ol and seeks to be successful
301	demonstrate awareness of events	30	1 respond independently to materials for amusement
302	attend 75% of school days	30	2 appear alert and able to focus attention
	remember routine daily schedule		3 bring no weapons to school
304	comply with bus-riding rules	30-	4 use amusement materials appropriately
305	arrive at school on time		5 wait for turn without physical intervention
306	bring no disruptive materials	30	6 use and return equipment without abuse
307	use non-classroom areas appropriately	30	7 accept positive physical contact
308	attend class on time and remain	30	8 touch others in appropriate ways
309	remain in school for its duration		9 refrain from stealing
310	attend non-academic activities	31	0 respond when angry without hitting
311	participate in non-academic activities—70%	31	1 recognize and show regard for possessions
312	respond to changes without outbursts	31:	2 accept verbal cue for removal from a situation
313	arrive at school physically clean	31	3 respond when angry without abuse of property
314	try again when faced with disappointment	31-	4 respond appropriately to substitute
315	follow rules outside of school building	31	5 respond when angry without threats
316	attempt new tasks	31	6 walk to timeout without being moved by an adult
317	eat at reasonable pace and clean the area	04	7 work or play without discreting others
318	wear appropriate clothing		7 work or play without disrupting others
319	attend school daily	21	8 refrain from inappropriate behavior when others lose control
320	follow common-sense safety rules	01	
001	on onto no quality no which in the classes		9 respond to provocation with self-control
221	spontaneously participate in classes		0 respond when angry with self-removal
222	spontaneously participate in non-academic activities	22	
223	walk through halls appropriately with pass		2 fulfill classroom job responsibilities
224	change activities without outbursts	22	
225	self-select appropriate activities	22	
226		22	5 demonstrate problem solving with assistance
227	complete individual and/or group tasks	12	6 fulfill responsibilities with minimal supervision
228	return property promptly and in good condition		7 maintain self-control when faced with disappointment
129	wait for rewards for days or weeks		8 obey new authority figure
130	bring required material for assignment to class		9 use personal skills to solve problems
131	participate regularly in mainstream classes		0 demonstrate knowledge of and work toward
	accept support from mainstream resources		future rewards
	complete mainstream classes with passing grades	Inc	dividual

_____ Individual _____

Page 2 of 3

Current Performance Form

Student	Teacl	ner/Case Ma	anager	Date_	
Summary o	of: Baseline 6тн wк	_ 12тн wк	_ 18тн wк	_ 24тн wк 30тн wк	36тн wк
Termination	n Other			Performance Level: 3	21
	ation: Demonstrates ap nonverbal skills	propriate		onal: Interacts approp social and task situat	
301	answer a request with meaningful w	ords	30	O1 be aware of and attend to adult	behavior
302	verbally exchange minimal informati	on		02 respond to an adult when name	
	respond appropriately to greetings a	nd farewells	30	03 engage in solitary entertainmer	ıt
	ask appropriately for materials		30		
	verbally recall group rules and/or give	e reasons		75 respond appropriately to adult in	
	speak using an appropriate volume	.12	30		
	wait to be acknowledged before spec	aking	30	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	jesture of friendship
308	speak clearly wait until speaker is finished before	roonandina	30		
	demonstrate listening by eye contact of		30		a another etudent
310		ii Surriiriariziriy	3		
	initiate or pursue appropriate conver	sation tonics		12 accept compliments and praise	
	participate minimally in discussion	oution topico		13 play games according to rules	
	cease verbalizing when directed			14 minimally participate in non-ac	ademic activities
315	•			15 sit quietly for 15 minutes in gro	
316	accept feedback			16 respond to a crisis by following	
317	accurately recall events		3	17 allow interactions between other	ers
	respond appropriately to requests		3	18 refrain from encouraging confli	cts between others
319			2	19 refrain from initiating conflict w	ith others
320	perform routine behavior with verba	l instructions	2		
221	initiate conversations, making self u	nderstandable	2:		
	reply to conversational questions ap			22 take turns without verbal remin	
223			2		
224		king		24 develop positive relationships v	vith more than one
225	001			adult	
	verbalize consequences for breaking		22		
227				26 conform to and participate in g	
228			22		
229			2:		
230			22		! S
231	, ,	ppropriate	23		Latinita.
000	compliments	tive and	23		-
232	verbally acknowledge effects of posi negative behavior	live allu		32 suggest appropriate group active33 accept positive peer pressure	лц
223	appropriately respond with words to	nocitive or		34 participate in group problem so	lvina
200	negative comments	positive of		• • •	wing
234	tell peers more appropriate ways to	hehave		35 participate in difficult games	
	• • •			36 spontaneously participate in gr	
	initiate appropriate greetings and far			disapprove of offensive peer be	
136				38 verbally indicate preferences fo	
137				39 physically or verbally support a	
138 139	verbalize desire to return to mainstre respond appropriately to the actions		14	40 participate in group problem so41 spontaneously demonstrate po	
		OI OIIIEIS		42 spontaneously resist negative p	
140 141	verbalize positive feelings and self-e	enectations		dividual	
142	praise and support others, without p		""	arriadui	
	verbally demonstrate knowledge of i	•			
	schools				
144	describe strengths that will enable s	uccess in			
	mainstream classes				
Indiv	<i>i</i> idual				

Current Performance Form

Page 3 of 3

Student	Teac	her/Case M	anager		Date_	
Summary of: Baseline_	_ 6тн wк	12тн wк	_ 18тн wк_	24тн wк	30тн wк	_ 36тн wк
Termination Othe	r			Performa	nce Level: 3_	2 1
Task: Engages in learni activities that are assig					dialog to rebuild self-w	esolve issues, orth
301 attempt academic 302 accept assistance of demonstrate short 304 agree to complete 305 appropriately seek 306 minimally participa 307 respond appropria 308 watch audiovisual 309 refrain from inapprerrors 310 participate in phys 311 complete daily rea 312 complete daily ma 313 work independentl 314 attempt to verbally 215 accept assistance of share and take turn 217 volunteer appropri 218 participate in phys 219 actively participate 220 choose and partici 221 work independentl 222 ignore routine dist 223 correct assignmen 224 select an activity to 225 self-chart progress 226 complete all assign 127 participate in simu 128 use time productiv 129 contribute to class 130 participate in role p 131 complete all assign 132 work independentl 133 take a test followin 134 seek and work inde 135 complete and turn Individual	on academic task- term memory for testing assistance from the in group-focu- tely to begin and presentations ropriate behavior cal education cla ding/English assi th assignment by for 10-20 minu- answer question on group acaden as during group ate answers in group ate answers in group ate answers in group ate answers in group ate in elective c by for 20-30 minu- ractions during s t when given dire to occupy oneself to in reading and/o telegraphic in reading and teleg	an adult sed classes complete tasks when correcting ass gnment ttes s when called on nic tasks tasks roup am activities lasses tes eat work ections or math a classes for assistance activities am situations etes directions sks end ue		303 participate volume accept position accept position accept feedbook verbally acknown accept feedbook verbally acknown accept feedbook initiate verbalize tha accurately recommendation accurately rec	attention by eye corbally in session we feedback from a ative feelings to an ative feelings the with directions to a friends derstanding of logic call events atte positive interactionseling task/topic a short-term planning domplete terms of a friends about self to positive fees with appropriate for ship role in groupings about self to positive fees with appropriate for ship role in groupings about self to positive fees with appropriate for ship role in groupings about self to positive to return to less ling to avoid conflict seling without object compromise a personal plan for confidences of own behavior and the self to express pride ences of own behavior and the self to group plan for 2-5 setting for self tem solving or compers solving or compersolving or compersolving or compersolving or compersolving or compersolving or fregulaters and the self to group plan for 2-5 setting for self tem solving or compersolving or compersolving or compersolving or fregulaters and the self-tempolaters and the s	n adult adult ibe personal feelings o modify behavior uesting counseling g sessions e one al consequences ions with an adult is behavior of friendships ed anger beaking deback from peers feedback eer is restrictive setting it tions one to six weeks lations is is normal ing for the group decision for s and consequences weeks oromise for self oromise for group lar school of coping strategies opriate behaviors os os

Behavioral Objective Sequence Intervention Planning Sheldon Braaten

Level One Level Two Level Three Focus: 100 level Focus: 200 level Focus: 300 level

Personal "power" Belonging ("us") Cooperation **Basic Issues** Becoming a group member ("they") Building communication skills Becoming sensitive to others Becoming aware of values Becoming competent Being an individual ("me") Learning self-control Being significant Being successful

Basic issues

Basic issues

Pleasure

Trust

Support Security

Expanding & reinforcing competencies

Transitions to new environments

"normal" expectations

Interventions

expanded choices,

social rewards

Applying skills in new situations

Responding to new settings and people Balancing personal and group needs Applying individual skills in groups

Managing movement

Consistency with group consequences Limit setting with expanded choices "natural and logical" consequences Emphasis on verbal rewarding Routine and repetition Interventions Consistency and planned consequences

Limit setting and limited choices

Continuous supervision

Modeling and rewarding

Structure, routine and repetition

Interventions

Adult Role: Guidance, Facilitator

self-selected goals, inclusion group problem solving,

> Adult Role: Group Leader Adult Role: Benevolent Dictator

Sheldon Braaten © 1993, 1998 Behavioral Institute for Children and Adolescents

SCHOOL - COMMUNITY AGENCY COORDIANTED INTERVENTION PLAN

Student:	School: Tea	Teacher: Support Staff:	ıff:
Agency:	Staff:		Begin Date:
			Review Date:
			End Date:
Student Goals/	Specific Plans: Who will do what? When? Where?	hen? Where?	
Objectives	School Plan	Agency Plan	Monitoring Plan

S.Braaten 1990

Daily Monitoring Record

Sheldon Braaten 2004

TIPS FOR PREVENTING PROBLEMS

Sheldon Braaten

Do'sBe watchfulBe a good exampleBe zestful

Be alert

Be appreciative Post rules
Be benevolent Explain rules

Be calm

Be careful

Be careful

Comment violations

Report violations

Enforce rules

Be clear

Be confident

Be consistent

Be constructive

Be courteous

Be decisive

Be diligent

Be direct

Be encouraging

Don'ts

Assume

Beg

Beg

Belittle

Embarrass

False promises

Be fair Guilt
Be firm Harass
Be forgiving Ignore
Be friendly Lie
Be genuine Nag

Be helpful Power struggles

Be honest Provoke
Be instructive Revenge
Be just Ridicule

Be kind Strike a student

Be a listener Tease
Be optimistic Threaten
Be patient Use profanity
Be pleasant Use put-downs
Be polite Use sarcasm

Be positive Yell

Be prepared Be afraid to apologize

Be prompt

Be reasonable

Be respectful Know and address students by their names.

Be responsible Treat each day as a new day.
Be sincere Maintain a good sense of humor

Be structured

Be supportive Sheldon Braaten © 1999
Be thoughtful Behavioral Institute for
Be understanding Children and Adolescents

Be vigilant Arden Hills, MN