



The ABCs of Behavior: A Focus On the Before and After

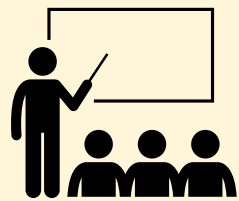


The ABCs of behavior, also known as the three-term contingency, can help us analyze antecedents, behavior, and consequences to explain, predict, and shape future behavior.

Antecedent

Antecedents are events that come before the behavior occurs, or things that set the stage for behavior to occur.

What happened before the behavior?



Behavior

Behavior refers to anything an individual does that is observable, measurable, and repeatable. Consider acquisition (can't do) and performance (won't do) behavioral needs.

What did the student do?



Consequence

Consequences are anything that comes following a behavior. They include events, situations, people's behavior, or things.

What happened after the behavior occurred?



Function

Why did the behavior happen?

- Identifies the reason why the behavior occurred, or why it is effective.
- There are different reasons individuals do things (to access or avoid things).

Collect and use data to inform decisions

*** All learning happens through consequences!**

- **Antecedents** influence behavior and affect our future actions.
- **Consequences** determine the likelihood of engaging in behavior in the future.