

Autism – ABA and Inclusion: Not Mutually Exclusive

June 22, 2010 12-4pm

Instructor: Sonja D. Kerr, Esq. Ms. Kerr is a member of the PA and other state bars and has over 23 years of experience in representing children with disabilities including children with autism. She has litigated the issues of ABA services and she has litigated the issue of inclusion for children with autism.

Intended

Audience: This course is structured so that it will meet the needs and interests of parents, advocates, teachers and lawyers.

Purpose: The purpose of this course will be to examine the practical strategies and legal standards for the provision of appropriate educational services to children with autism, including specifically the controversy surrounding the provision of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and services to children with autism in inclusive settings. Discussion will include an examination of the responsibility of school districts to provide peer-reviewed research based programs including ABA and inclusion and how children with autism can benefit from both.

12:00 – 12:15 Introduction and Overview

12:15- 12:40 Services for Children with Autism; Services Based on Peer-Reviewed Research. 20 U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(A)(IV)

- A. What is Peer-Reviewed Research; what is research about ABA and Inclusion
- B. How to Find Out if District is Using Peer-Reviewed Research based Programming; discussing Peer-Reviewed Research at an IEP meeting.
- C. Legal standards and cases concerning “peer-reviewed” research.

12:40 – 1:10 ABA: What is It and What Isn't It?

Applied Behavioral Analysis” – History of the term, Dr. Donald Baer

- A. Lovaas: The Early Years; Intensive Application of ABA to Young Children: Lovaas Revisited; Variations on a Theme
- B. Legal standards and cases concerning ABA.

1:30 – 2:00 Inclusion: What is It and What Isn't It?

- A. Inclusion - History of the Term
- B. What *Gaskin* Means – “The Broken Promise” – Final (June 2010) Gaskin Report
- C. Supplementary Aids and Services
- D. Legal standards and cases concerning inclusion

2:00 – 4:00 Putting it all together: Why ABA and Inclusion are not Mutually Exclusive

- A. The IDEA's Requirement to “Modify” the Curriculum.

- B. Using ABA to Modify the Curriculum
- C. Using ABA to Provide All Specially Designed Instruction for a Child with Autism
- D. Using ABA in the Regular Education Classroom
- E. Staff Training and Competencies
- F. Legal standards and court cases supporting ABA and Inclusion - Together