

Antecedent

- An antecedent is any event that immediately precedes the behaviour in question (i.e. anything in the environment that occurs just prior to the behaviour of interest).
- Some examples:
 - Mom takes out her camera (antecedent) and boy poses (behaviour) for the picture
 - Sister takes a toy away from her brother (antecedent) and boy hits (behaviour) his sister
 - Lunch bell rings (antecedent) and the student lines up (behaviour) to go down to the cafeteria.
- Antecedents can be planned or unplanned. A bell ringing is a planned antecedent condition for the behaviour of lining up. A mother saying, “come sit down and finish your homework” is not a planned antecedent to the child running away.
- Sometimes, it can be difficult to identify the antecedent to the behaviour, but it is important to remember that behaviour never occurs without reason.
- ABC data collection can be helpful in terms of identifying events occurring immediately before the problem behaviour.

Behaviour

- When we talk about "behaviours", we are talking about observable and measurable verbal or motor responses.
- Thus, we don't make inferences about internal states or causation.
- Examples of non-behavioural language:
 - She was upset because she thought she was going to get candy.
 - He was mad because I took away his iPad.
 - He was very aggressive today.
- Examples of behavioural language:
 - She stomped her feet and cried.
 - He clenched his fists and crossed his arms.
 - He hit his sister with an open hand five times.

Consequence

- A consequence is anything that immediately follows the behaviour in question.
- What happened in the environment? What did mom/dad/teacher/peer say or do?
- Like antecedents, consequences can be planned or unplanned.
 - Planned consequence: see fridge (antecedent), open fridge (behaviour), see food (consequence).
 - Unplanned consequence: see classroom, (antecedent), walk into the classroom (behaviour), peer laughs at student (consequence).
- In both examples of planned and unplanned consequences, the consequence alters the probability of future occurrences of that behaviour.