

the ONTABA ANALYST



Ontaba

The Ontario Association for
Behaviour Analysis

An Affiliate Chapter of
The Association for
Behavior Analysis
International

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OUTCOMES IN THE ONTARIO IBI PROGRAM

Adrienne Perry, Anne Cummings, Jennifer Dunn Geier, Susan Hughes,
Nancy Freeman, Louise LaRose, Tom Managhan,
Jo-Ann Reitzel, Janis Williams

This is a summary of a symposium presented at the ONTABA Conference November 10, 2006, based on a report commissioned by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) submitted by Adrienne Perry, PhD., C.Psych., BCBA. However, the views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MCYS.

Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) is a specialized form of intervention designed for young children with autism, based on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). IBI is considered "best practice" for young children with autism, based on literature which has demonstrated its efficacy relative to less intensive intervention, eclectic intervention, and equivalent amounts of special education. IBI has been publicly funded in Ontario since 2000 through MCYS, via contracts with service providers in each region. Service may be delivered via the public program or by private providers and may take place in a variety of settings (homes, centres, child cares, etc.).

The purpose of this study was to examine children's outcomes in the Ontario IBI Program. It was a study of the "effectiveness" of IBI under "real-world" conditions, as opposed to an "efficacy" study like those from small, model programs in the literature. It was a retrospective file review study, designed to address two main questions: 1. Do children show significant improvement during their participation in the IBI program? (how much improvement, improvement in what respects? e.g., autism symptoms, developmental skills, etc.) and 2. What factors predict greater improvement? (level of functioning, program variables, etc.).

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INSERT: Employment Opportunities: Community Living Huronia

From the President's Desk

James C.K. Porter
ONTABA President



We will soon be saying good-bye to 2006 and ringing in 2007 and so with the holiday season fast approaching, I would like to take the time to just briefly reflect on the past year and the New Year ahead.

First I would like to thank all those who made the 13th Annual ONTABA Conference such a great success. With concurrent sessions for the first time, and a variety of topics and interests embraced by the speakers, it was indeed a significant accomplishment. Special thanks to the conference committee and all those who presented at the conference. A hearty thanks also to all the members that came to hear the speakers and show their support for ONTABA. We have also seen with 2006 and the conference an all time high in the number of ONTABA members.

With my first year as President behind me I would like to thank all those board members that recently exited after making significant contributions in the operation of the organization and in advancing Behavior Analysis in the province through their participation on the board. With the election over, I would like to first thank all those members who nominated others for positions and to thank those who ran for a board position. With the results in I would like to welcome all the new board members and I look forward to working with this new board to continue the work that the previous board started and to set new goals for the coming year.

With the advances made by the Transitional Certification Committee and working with government representatives I am encouraged by the opportunities for the development of an Ontario-based certification for Behavior Analysts in Ontario.

I encourage all members to participate in the organization through committee participation, with contributions to the newsletter and other organizational activities, and to constantly stay abreast of what is happening within ONTABA by checking out the ONTABA website and newsletter.

In closing, I send my best wishes and Season's Greetings to all ONTABA members in the coming year.

13th Annual ONTABA CONFERENCE
November 9th and 10th, 2006
Holiday Inn Hotel, Markham, Ontario

Pictures and Summary Inside



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ONTABA Committee Updates

Conference Committee:

Conference Chair: Shiri Bartman

If you have any question please feel free to call Shiri Bartman at 905-851-7955 or e-mail at sbartman@shiningthrough.ca.

Check out the summary of Conference 2006 inside!

Elections Committee:

Co-Chairs: Shiri Bartman and James Porter

Election positions were acclaimed.

Membership Committee:

Chair: Amy Barker

Board Liaison: TBA

2006 Membership Breakdown:

Total 2006 Members = 362

Renewing Members From 2005 = 211

New Members = 102

Returning Members (1992 to 2004) = 49

Full Members = 268

Student Members = 41

Sustaining Members = 40

Affiliate Members = 12

Member Emeritus = 1

2007 Memberships Breakdown (to date):

Total 2007 Members = 105

Renewing Members From 2006 = 73

New Members = 25

Returning Members (1992 to 2005) = 7

Full Members = 67

Student Members = 17

Sustaining Members = 17

Affiliate Members = 3

Member Emeritus = 1

Membership forms are available on the website at www.ONTABA.org

Recruitment Committee

Board Liaison/ Chair: Carobeth Zorzos

The recruitment committee reported at the Conference 2006 that they have been attending conferences in various fields (Autism, Mental health, education), to promote ONTABA and presenting at colleges and universities including St. Lawrence, George Brown, and Mohawk College. Additionally they have been recruiting members to present ONTABA information at their workplace. The committee welcomes volunteers to assist in recruitment activities. Please contact carobethz@rogers.com for more information.

Transitional Certification Committee

Chair: Andrew McNamara

Board Liaison: TBA

See update soon on the website at www.ontaba.org

Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Caroll Drummond

Board Liaison: James Hughes

Thanks to Adrienne Perry and the other lead Researchers in the province offering the Summary of the symposium presented at the 2006 ONTABA Conference "Outcomes of the Ontario IBI Program". Check it out on our website!

Webpage Task Force

Chair: Janet Valcourt

Board Liaison: TBA

Check the site regularly at www.ontaba.org ! Paul Idle has added content to the website from this Analyst!

Public Policy Task Force

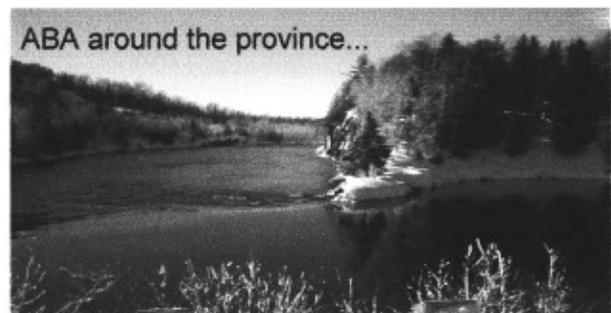
Chair: Rosemary Condillac

Board Liaison: Carobeth Zorzos

The Public Policy committee of ONTABA strives to identify issues of policy development related to ABA and to assist the board with policy research and position development, as well as to communicate with Policy Makers on behalf of ONTABA as requested by the ONTABA Board. We are continuing to work on developing a list of experts in several areas relating ABA who would be willing to periodically comment on policy issues we are researching. If you have any interest in assisting us with issues pertaining to Public Policy, please contact Rosemary Condillac (chair) at dr_condillac@yahoo.com or Carobeth Zorzos (board liaison) at carobethz@rogers.com

Awards and Recognition Task Force

Board Liaison/Chair: James Porter



Home visit this time of year near Atikokan, ON

Outcomes..Continued from pg.1

The data used in the study came from 332 files of children (80% boys) in the Ontario IBI program, which is a very large sample size, although it is only a subset of children receiving service in the Ontario program. Available data from intake and exit assessments (diagnostic and developmental measures) were used together with program variables such as age and duration. Measures included the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS), which is a standard observational measure often used in psychological/diagnostic assessments, measuring severity of autism symptoms; the Vineland Scales of Adaptive Behavior, which is a parent interview measure regarding everyday skills in several domains of development (communication, self-help, social, and motor skills); and a cognitive or intellectual test administered to the child (various tests depending on the child's age and ability level).

Children were between 20 and 86 months old at intake, with 32% under 4 years of age, 34% between 4 and 5 years, 28% between 5 and 6 years, and 6% over 6 years at program entry. The average age was about 4½ years. The duration of IBI received ranged from 4 months to 4 years with an average of 18 months. The children had substantial developmental delays as well as autism. Although there was considerable variability among children, they were functioning, on average, at a 2-year cognitive level and in the moderate to severe range of intellectual disability at intake. Similarly, adaptive levels were in the moderately delayed range with age equivalents below a 2-year level, on average. However, there was a range of ability levels and so children were divided into 3 subgroups based on their initial level of functioning ("higher", medium, and lower) based on Vineland standard scores. (Note that "higher" is a relative term and does not mean high functioning as in average intelligence.)

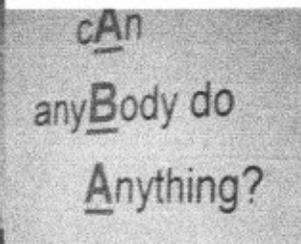
Results for Question 1. Do Children Improve?

Autism Symptom Severity. Children showed statistically significant and clinically significant reduction in autism symptom severity (CARS Total score). That is, children had less repetitive behaviour, related better to people, had better verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and improved imitation abilities, etc. at the time of exit compared to their initial scores. About half the children changed enough to fall into a milder category on this instrument. Of those who were in the mild/moderate autism range at intake, 41% improved so that they were in the non-autism range at exit. Of those in the severe autism range at intake, 59% improved to the mild/moderate range and 15% improved very substantially to the non-autism range. Note, however, that these children could still have shown developmental delays.

Cognitive and Adaptive Behaviour Level. Cognitive level (IQ and Mental Age) based on various cognitive tests, improved significantly for children, in some cases dramatically so (but this was unavailable for many children). Further, children gained significantly in developmental skills (increased age equivalents) in all areas of adaptive behaviour (communication skills, self-help skills, social skills, and motor skills) as measured by the Vineland parent interview measure. Standard scores, which are corrected for age, also increased significantly for Communication and Socialization, two key areas of difficulty for children with autism.

Rate of Development. As noted above, children were quite variable but, on average, were substantially delayed developmentally prior to the program. In fact, they had been developing at about one-third of the rate of a typically developing child. Children's rate of development (based on the Vineland age equivalent scores) during IBI was approximately *double* their rate prior to IBI, and this was true for all three initial subgroups, i.e., even the lower functioning children doubled their rate of development, as a

Continued on pg.7



ONTABA Conference 2006

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone once again for taking part in this years conference. The event was a huge success with 220 people in attendance on both Thursday and Friday. I would like to thank all of the talented individuals that submitted presentations and posters and allowed the membership to see what is going on in our growing field of Behaviour Analysis. For the first time this year we were able to conduct concurrent sessions and allow members to choose the talks they attended. We hope to be able to continue to do this annually.

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ONTABA Conference 2006 cont. from pg.5

I would like to thank my co-chair Melissa Lavalley and all of the volunteers: Charlene Stogren, Lisa Joseph, Allison Stoneman, Whitney Harris, Lindsay Lanteigne, and Sarah Horsford.

Finally I would like to congratulate the students who won ONTABA's first "Student presenter" draw: April Sullivan, Heather Cushing Gordon, Nicole Aliya Rahim, John Clarke, Abbie Solish, and Alissa Levy. These students received free conference registration for this years conference!

Shiri Bartman



Outcomes..Continued from pg.4

group. This suggests that the developmental trajectory of children was altered during their participation in the IBI program. Many children were even developing at a typical rate (although they may not have "caught up" to typical peers).

Range of Progress/Outcome. There was considerable heterogeneity in outcome, as would be expected given the population. Children were classified into seven categories of progress/outcome based on a combination of all the information available (rate of development, Vineland scores, cognitive scores, and CARS scores). The categories were: Average Functioning, Substantially Improved, Clinically Significantly Improved, Less Autistic, Minimally Improved, No Change, and Worse. The majority of children (75%) showed some measurable benefit or improvement during IBI (i.e., the first 5 categories combined). This included some children who achieved average functioning (average cognitive and/or adaptive levels and non-autism range on CARS), similar to those described as "best outcome" in the efficacy literature). The other 25% did not seem to show improvement (the last two categories combined) at least on the available measures. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these children may have improved in problem behaviour, which would not be captured by these measures.

Results for Question 2. Predictors of Progress/Outcome

Initial Level of Functioning. Children's progress/outcome was clearly related to their initial functioning levels, on average, though not totally. As a group, children who were in the relatively "higher" functioning subgroup initially showed better outcomes, but not in every case. Children who were initially medium functioning were, at exit, to be found in every one of the seven progress/outcome categories, including average functioning. Children who were initially lower functioning also showed a range of progress, though none achieved average functioning.

Program Variables: Age and Duration. Children who started IBI before age 4 did better than those who started after age 4 on all scores on the exit assessment. Children who received 2 years or longer duration of IBI did better than those who received a shorter duration (however, these children were also younger when they entered). Statistical analyses attempting to prioritize the degree of influence of initial level of functioning, age, and duration, showed that initial levels are the strongest determinant, but that they do not account for all the variability (half at most). Age at entry appears to be more predictive than duration of IBI. However, there are clearly other factors (e.g., quality and quantity of intervention, other child factors not measured here) which may account for the unexplained variance.

Strengths and Limitations

There are both strengths and limitations of this study (as with any study). The primary limitation is that the study has no Comparison group, which means gains cannot be conclusively attributed to the IBI program, per se, although the examination of subgroups within the sample partially compensates for this. Also there is no measure of treatment quantity, quality, or fidelity. The principal strength is that the study is the largest (and one of the only) studies which demonstrates the effectiveness of IBI in a large and diverse community sample.





Surrey Place Centre

Senior Behaviour Therapist

Adult Program

Part-time (3 days)

\$25.0380-\$31.7319/hour

Surrey Place Centre is a community-based organization that provides a range of services including complex assessment, diagnostics, and treatment for people living with developmental disabilities. We are dedicated to helping every client reach their potential – at every stage in life. With highly skilled staff and dedicated teams, we're making a real difference through inspired leadership, service and research excellence, community collaboration and creative capacity building.

POSITION SUMMARY:

We are seeking an individual with demonstrated education and experience in applied behaviour analysis to work with adults with developmental disabilities and their family. You will have an independent working style and the ability to participate as a member of an interdisciplinary team. Your work will require you to provide behavioural assessment, intervention and consultation for adults assigned to you.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Qualifications for this position are usually acquired through graduate level education in Psychology or the equivalent. You have demonstrated knowledge, experience and expertise in using behavioural methods and developmental approaches to assist clients and their care-givers. You have demonstrated knowledge of adults with psychiatric problems or problems associated with aging, including community, health and long-term care delivery systems. Experience with adults with developmental disabilities or those who have a chronic/permanent condition affecting independent functioning is an asset. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Experience on an interdisciplinary team and with multi-cultural environments are assets. Regular and consistent attendance at work is also required.

Interested candidates should forward their resume to: Attn: Human Resources, Surrey Place Centre, 2 Surrey Place, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C2; fax: (416) 925-5645, or email: hr@surreyplace.on.ca.

**Surrey Place Centre fosters diversity in the workplace and
welcomes applicants from the communities we serve.**

ONTABA Analyst Submissions

Your newsletter is only as good as your contributions.

The *ONTABA Analyst* is a forum for us to stay connected in many ways. All members are encouraged to submit articles on topics related to behaviour analysis; theoretical, practical or topical issues, perspectives from different regions of the province, jobs or schools, research accounts, news, announcements, your biography, reviews, student practicum, etc.

Article submissions:

We reserve the right to edit without changing the intent of an article, request further editing by the author, publish articles relative to the content of the current Analyst, publish them at a later date with due respect to the timeliness of a given article, or refuse an article. You will be informed of acceptance, rewrite or refusal of an article. Announcements will be published at the discretion of the editor. *ONTABA* will not be held responsible for the views and opinions of *ONTABA Analyst* contributors.

Advertising in the *ONTABA Analyst* is available for a fee payable to *ONTABA* (\$100.00 1/4 pg., \$200.00 1/2 pg., \$300.00 full pg.). Job ads will be posted on the *ONTABA* website for up to 30 days for free with an *ONTABA Analyst Ad* for 1 month. Website ads only are \$50.00 for the first month and \$30.00 thereafter (subject to change).

**Submissions for the next ONTABA ANALYST, Issue must arrive to
Caroll Drummond at carolld@sympatico.ca or Bridgette Gauthier at littleb.bridgette@gmail.com
by March 1st for the March 15th mail out.**

**CHECK out our
website for the latest in job ads!
www.ONTABA.org**



Upcoming Conferences

February 2-4, 2007- Progress and Challenges in the Behavioral Treatment of Autism. Boston Sheraton , Boston, Mass. www.abainternational.org for more information

February 22-24, 2007- Canadian Spring Conference on Brain and Behaviour, Fernie, British Columbia . www.psych.ucalgary.ca/research/fernie for more information

March 18-21, 2007- Banff International Conferences on Behavioural Science. Banff xxxix: Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents. Banff, Alberta. www.banffbehsci.ubc.ca for more information.

April 12, 13, 2007- OADD Conference (see below)

April 13, 2007- OADD Research Special Interest Group, Kempenfelt Centre, Barrie. RSIG is currently seeking submissions for posters and presentations. See www.OADD.org/RSIG for submission form.

May 25-29, 2007: 33rd Annual Association for Behaviour Analysis Conference, Manchester Grand Hyatt ,San Diego, California. Go to www.abainternational.org/international_conference_web_site for more information.

June 16-19, 2007-Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT), Toronto. www.ficcdat.ca for more information.

August 12-14, 2007 :4th International Conference, Hilton Sydney, Australia. Go to www.abainternational.org/international_conference_web_site for more information.

ABA International Information

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Web Master: Paul Idle

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ONTABA, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis,
is an affiliate Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

ONTABA currently has members from professions such as
education, nursing, health care, and psychology.

ONTABA's Vision: *Fostering a culture of excellence, integrity, and expertise for the advancement and promotion of the science of behaviour analysis.*

ONTABA's Mission: *To demonstrate leadership, knowledge, and innovation in education, training, and research for the ethical and effective application of behaviour analysis.*

ONTABA

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