



ABA of Wisconsin, LLC

Tips for Skill Acquisition

Skill acquisition procedures can be used to teach ANY skill:

- Communication Skills
- Social Skills
- Self-Help Skills
- Academic Skills

What is Naturalistic Teaching?

- Teaching that places an emphasis on the child's interest or lead when presenting learning trials
 - o Captures momentary motivation
 - If your child is playing with cars and currently working towards mastering her colors, hold up a red car and ask "What color is this car?"
 - o Take advantage of natural deprivation and current wants
 - If your child is eating crackers, instead of just giving him a drink, prompt him to request water: "Say: Can I have water, please."
 - Trials are less structured and diverse responses are accepted
 - o Use an array of different prompts or instructions
 - If your child is working on playing with others when asked, vary the instructions you give: "Can I play?" "Can I have a turn?" "Do you want to play with me?"
 - o Use an array of different stimuli
 - If your child has been learning to count with bears, have her count the blocks that she is playing with.
 - Involve siblings, other family members, or teachers at school to give the instruction in different settings
 - Natural activities and natural reinforcers and consequences are incorporated
 - o Show a favorite item of your child's to him, and have him use language to access the item of interest.
 - "Here are your markers! What would you like to play with? Say: Markers, please."

Benefits to Naturalistic Teaching

- Decreased rate of problem behavior
- Easy to implement at school or home by parents or teachers
- Extends your child's training beyond their therapy session
- Generalizes skills to the natural environment