

BEHAVIOR MODULE - ASSESSMENT

Case Scenario

John is a 13 year old Caucasian male who attends Your Town Middle School. John qualifies for special education services under the physical or other health impairment category. John has a history of ADHD symptoms and speech/language disorders. John has been in your classroom for the past six months, where he has progressively shown behavior problems.

John lives at home with his parents and seven siblings. John's mother reported that John did not experience any significant developmental delays for gross motor or speech/language development up until the age of two. John did experience speech articulation difficulties and poor fine motor planning skills. There is a reported medical history in the family for speech/language treatment, ADHD, and bipolar disorder. There is also suspected "ADHD" with two of John's siblings.

John is an avid football fan. He says that he likes all teams because the "game is so fun." John also likes monster trucks, video games, TV, and playing on the computer. John is very adamant that he does not like reading (aloud or alone) or writing.

John is a very social young man who clearly likes attention from his teachers and peers. John actively contributes to open classroom discussions with his teachers and peers about a variety of subjects, as long as he is not asked to read or write. John's behaviors have escalated over the year to include extreme profanity (i.e., calling the teacher's names that use bad words), and he has on occasion become self-destructive in the classroom (i.e., throwing chairs, books, etc).

It is in the middle of the year and John's behavior has resulted in other student's losing class time, as well as a few incidents where safety for John and the other students was a concern. As John's classroom teacher you have determined that John is in need of a behavior intervention plan (BIP) based on a functional behavior assessment (FBA).

Questions

1. After reading through Michelle and Shayne's story, what type of information can you gather from John's family? What types of questions might you ask his parents that could assist with the behavior planning process?
2. Based on your understanding of the FBA process, what are the steps that you should take to conduct an FBA with John?
3. What type of data should you collect for John? Are there any areas where you may want to pay close attention?
4. How might you involve John's family through the entire process (from FBA through the BIP implementation)?