



Applied Behavior Consultants, Inc.

Brenda J. Terzich, M.A.,
Behavior Analyst
Vice-President and CEO

The neurological disorder, Autism, has increased astronomically in the past decade. The occurrence now is one in 250 children, compared to one in 5,000 twenty years ago. The cause remains unknown.

For Brenda Terzich, CEO of Applied Behavior Consultants, Inc. (ABC), www.abcreal.com, the rise means that many more children will be "unreachable," if they do not get help with the techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a technology derived from the work of Psychologist, B.F. Skinner.

"Early treatment is critical," says

Terzich. "If we can get them before they are four years old, our field has shown that they have a 40 to 50 percent chance of fully functioning with their same age peers."

Although Terzich didn't plan on working with children with autism when Dr. Joseph E. Morrow and she started Applied Behavior Consultants, Inc. in 1987, that spectrum of children has become their main client group.

The two behaviorists started working with developmentally disabled people. But, as the number of children diagnosed with autism increased, so did the need for intensive treatment. The company began to specialize in ABA in-home based treatment and eventually opened private (California state-regulated) schools to treat these children.

Today, they are treating more than 300 children in ABC schools and their in-home programs. They currently have three schools in California for children

"Early treatment is critical."

with autism.

ABC's curricula emphasizes the development of communication, language and other important social skills.

Additionally, they provide training for school districts and regional centers in California as well as globally in China and Taiwan.

While the company continues to expand, it is limited by the number of trained people available. To combat this lack, ABC recently began offering a certification program designed for instructional aides and behavior technicians in Applied Behavior Analysis as it applies to the treatment of autism.

"So many kids need services," says Terzich. "We always have a waiting list—and we're one of the larger companies in the field."

Still, Terzich loves what she does. "We get to see changes in our children every single day," says Terzich. "When I see parents' lives change as a result of the kids' lives changing, that makes it all worthwhile."

AS SEEN IN SACRAMENTO MAGAZINE



SUNNUDAGUR

Morgunblaðið



Morgunblaðið/Friddi

Skólagaanga einhverfra Brenda J. Terzich, sálfræðingur og stofnandi skóla fyrir einhverfa í Sacramento í Kaliforníu, situr og fylgist með Þorkeli Skúla Þorsteinssyni, sem er einhverfur og gengur í Barnaskóla Hjallastefunnar. Hann hefur verið í atferlismeðferð hjá Terzich.

Þörf á sérskóla einhverfra

Þjálfun einhverfra barna er sérhæfð og kennsla í sérskóla skilar miklum árangri

Eitir Arnþór Helgason
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„OKKUR dreymir um að stofnaður verði sérskóli eða þekkingarsetur fyrir einhverf börn,“ segir Margrét Dagmar Ericadóttir, móðir einhverfs drengs, en fyrirtæki hennar vinnur nú að gerð heimildarmyndar um málefni einhverfra.

Brenda J. Terzich, annar stofnenda ABC-skólans í Sacramento, Kaliforníu, kom hingað til lands í tengslum við töku myndarinnar.

„Í skólanum okkar vinnum við eingöngu eftir svokallaðri atferliþjálfun, sem byggist á hagnýtri atferlismótun, en sú aðferð er vel þekkt

hér á landi,“ segir Brenda. „Börnin eru sjáldan lengur en 3-4 ár í skólanum en þá eru þau send í almenna skóla eftir því sem kostur er.“

Skortur á starfsfólki

Margrét Dagmar segir að hér á landi fari þjálfun einhverfra barna fram í leikskólum en undir hælinn sé lagt lvaða aðferðir séu notaðar við þjálfun þeirra. Hún segir að ástandið snarversni þegar börnin komast á grunnskólastig en víða sé þjálfun þeirra mjög ábótaván. Fagfólk fást ekki til starfa vegna lágra launa og erðföra starfskilyrða og mikill tími fari í að hjálfa nýtt starfsfólk vegna tíðra mannskípta.

Hún segir það hafa vakið athygli sína að í

ABC-skólanum hafi sama fólk útséð um börn lengi og skilað miklum árangri.

Sérhannað húsnæði

Margrét segir að hér á landi vanti aðstöðu til þess að hjálfa einhverf börn en til þess þurfi sérhannað húsnæði. Nefnir hún að einhverfir þoli oft illa sterka ljósinga og skera líti auk þess sem gera verði umhverfið þannig úr garði að sem minnst hættu sé á því að þeir skaði sig. Telur hún nauðsynlegt að stofna hið fyrsta sérskóla eða þekkingarsetur vegna þess hve sérhæft kennsla einhverfra er.

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都市新闻

名师讲读周三开播

《红楼梦》讲读系列讲座

《红楼梦》是中国古典小说的巅峰之作，也是世界文学宝库中的一颗明珠。为了弘扬民族文化，普及文学知识，天津日报特别推出“名师讲读”系列讲座，邀请著名红学家、文学评论家、作家等，从不同角度对《红楼梦》进行深入解读。讲座将于每周三晚上7:30在天津日报演播室播出，欢迎广大读者收听收看。



直接引进当今世界最先进的应用行为分析康复训练法

全国首家 儿童孤独症 在津投建

开办网络远程教育辐射全国

本报讯(记者李军)全国首家直接引进当今世界应用行为科学先进技术，集儿童孤独症诊断、治疗、康复训练于一体的天津(国际)儿童心理卫生治疗中心暨美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校中国天津分校，将于近日在本市儿童福利院成立。该治疗中心将应用国际最先进的应用行为分析康复训练法(ABA 康复训练法)治疗儿童孤独症患儿，以填补我国在这一领域的空白。美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校校长李军、教授博士级美国应用行为分析专家在津举行了首次儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座，吸引了全国各地应用行为分析专家及患儿家长参加。

美国 ABC 学校是目前美国规模最大的应用行为分析康复训练法治疗儿童孤独症早期干预中心，并总结出一套操作性极强的结构化方法体系。应用该疗法早期接受治疗的孤独症患儿可有 80% 趋于常人，5 岁以后接受治疗的患

儿童孤独症大揭秘其症状。

天津(国际)儿童心理卫生治疗中心是由天津市儿童福利院与天津应用行为分析国际有限公司在应用心理学和行为科学基础上合作建立的，以分校的形式定期接受美国 ABC 学校提供的技术指导，作为美国 ABC 学校在中国的惟一基地，代领教学和康复支持。同时国际行为分析学会也将派遣美国、日本、意大利等国专家为其提供长期的技术指导。该中心全套引进应用行为分析康复训练法，提倡早期干预，系统训练，促进患儿孤独症的 2 至 5 岁黄金时段，分阶段、中频及高频的干预，制订个性化、高质的教育训练治疗大纲，设置教育训练治疗材料，达到患儿回归主流社会的最终目的。据悉，该中心设立在天津，辐射全国，开办网络远程教育，以及举办培训视频会议为全国各地从事孤独症儿童康复事业的专家、学者、家长们搭建一个交流的平台，使全国的孤独症儿童得到有效的治疗。



本报记者专访

行为分析理论顶尖专家

昨天，美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校校长李军、教授博士级美国应用行为分析专家在津举行了首次儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座。美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校校长李军、教授博士级美国应用行为分析专家在津举行了首次儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座。美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校校长李军、教授博士级美国应用行为分析专家在津举行了首次儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座。

716647 举行的讲座，是世界公认的最好机会。李军教授在讲座中介绍了今年 3 月他来中国考察时了解到天津在儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座的重要意义。李军教授在 60 年代就从事应用行为分析理论，现已成为这一领域的国际权威。记者对他进行了专访。

什么是儿童孤独症

儿童孤独症又称儿童自闭症，通常发生于 3 岁之前，发病以男孩居多，其主要症状是不与别人交往，不能建立正常的社会关系。患儿沉溺在自己的世界里，与日常生活脱节，缺乏感情联系，即使对父母也漠不关心，如同陌生人，他

们机械地重复某一动作，缺乏目光对视，“你”“我”不分，语言发育迟滞或障碍，理解表达能力低下。

调查显示，2001 年 0-6 岁儿童孤独症患病率为 1/1000，而且其中的 5% 合并精神发育迟滞。我国患病率全国可

以超过儿童期治疗困难的儿童精神科患者不足百人，存在严重的“诊断”盲区。

由于社会对孤独症的陌生，早期识别患儿往往被误认为性格倔强或者“开口晚”，从而延误了治疗时机。有 3-4 批孤独症患儿被认为将会变成弱智，大多数患儿不在 13 岁之前就进入了精神病院。专家指出，对孤独症的行为特征及早发现，康复训练与教育介入越早，治疗的效果越好。

本报记者李军 天津(国际)儿童心理卫生治疗中心暨美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校中国天津分校，将于近日在本市儿童福利院成立。该治疗中心将应用国际最先进的应用行为分析康复训练法(ABA 康复训练法)治疗儿童孤独症患儿，以填补我国在这一领域的空白。美国 ABC 孤独症康复学校校长李军、教授博士级美国应用行为分析专家在津举行了首次儿童心理卫生及应用行为分析康复训练法知识讲座，吸引了全国各地应用行为分析专家及患儿家长参加。

每年 10 月 10 日是世界精神卫生日，今年的主题是“精神健康，从了解开始”。据介绍，目前在我国患有自闭症的患者

明天世界精神卫生日 专家义务心理讲座

中国精神卫生学会，已把 10 月 10 日定为世界精神卫生日。在各种精神疾病中，抑郁症的发病率最高。本会和那位的发病率约占精神疾病总发病率的 3%。此外，受到社会歧视和行为问题困扰的 17 岁以下儿童和青少年在本市呈逐年上升趋势。妇女、老年人、受灾群体等人都特有的各类精神和行为问题，也都不容忽视。

日前本市已相继开展中国精神卫生工作规划(2002-2010 年)。在市民中普及大众精神卫生知识，本市安定医院 10 位专家将在 10 月 10 日为本市市民进行大型心理健康教育讲座。