



FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION TRAINING (FCT)

FCT is a set of practices that replace a challenging behavior that has a communication function with more appropriate and effective communication behaviors or skills.



The distinct component of FCT is that the alternative response is a recognizable form of communication (e.g., a vocalization, manual sign, Picture Exchange Communication System[®]).



FCT involves identifying the function of the challenging behavior, selecting the appropriate alternative communication behavior or skill, and teaching the alternative communication behavior.







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In the classroom

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- When possible, use an existing mode of communication for the student
 - Choose an alternative communication behavior with a response effort that is less difficult than the interfering behavior
 - Examples may include: a break card/signal, a signal for attention, a gesture to request a want or need, etc.

In the home

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- Consider situations in which the interfering behavior is likely to occur (mealtime, bath time, grocery shopping, etc.)
 - Reinforce all use of the alternative communication behavior
 - Try to select a method that is always available (manual sign, picture/icon)