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DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

Professional Learning
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The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education • 3246 Henderson Rd. • Columbus, OH 43220 • 614-897-0020 • www.ohiodeafblind.org

Assessing Behaviors in Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities

Presented by
Melinda Wolford, PhD, NCSP

School educational teams are responsible for evaluating the needs of students with disabilities and providing intervention strategies to address identified needs. Although each child presents unique learning characteristics, children who have a combined vision-hearing loss (deafblindness) may exhibit challenging behaviors that affect the capacity to accurately assess and identify a child's needs for purposes of designing and implementing appropriate instruction and intervention. *Assessing Behaviors in Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities* is designed to assist school psychologists and other educators in assessing student behavior and using those assessment data in the development of individualized behavior intervention plans.

Speaker: *Melinda Wolford, PhD, NCSP* is an experienced school psychologist and neuropsychologist. She previously served as an assistant professor in school psychology and has expertise in assessment, intervention, parent training, staff development, and consultation.

Target Audience: School psychologists, intervention specialists, parents, speech-language pathologists, other related services providers, and other agency professionals

Session Description: The four-session professional learning series covers a variety of topics related to the behavioral assessment of children with deafblindness and other low incidence disabilities.

The date, title of the session, and learning objectives for each session are listed below. **All sessions will be held from 4:00 to 5:15 pm ET.** Participants may register for one or more of the sessions by clicking on the session's registration link.

Contact Hours: One contact hour (1) is available for each session.

Participants may register for individual sessions or for all sessions

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Session 1: Assessing Behaviors for Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities (Part I)

Date: August 18, 2021

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Session1assessbehaviorsPart1>

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify and define challenging behaviors that interfere with a child's educational and social-emotional progress
2. Explore evaluation approaches to assess and define functions of the child's behavior
3. Understand the purpose of a functional behavior assessment in developing effective intervention
4. Consider outstanding demands of individual deficits that complicate the child's understanding of relationships and environments
5. Design an individualized assessment plan to obtain definitive information about the child's behavior responses from parents, teachers, and other caretakers

Session 2: Assessing Behaviors for Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities (Part II)

Date: September 15, 2021

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Session2assessbehaviorsPart2>

Learning Objectives:

1. Explore techniques to gather data about the child's behavioral responses across settings, environments, and with various caretakers
2. Discuss the array of observations methods to obtain a comprehensive picture of skills and behavioral response
3. Identify tools and data collection approaches to identify patterns in behavioral responses
4. Use data collection strategies and repeated observations to design behavioral intervention plans



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Session 3: Sensory-driven Behavioral Intervention for Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities

Date: October 6, 2021

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Session3sensorydriven>

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify function/s of sensory-driven behaviors including sensory craving, sensory seeking, or sensory resisting responses
2. Discuss the variance of sensory interpretations and sensory supports that may be utilized to reduce or replace inappropriate or harmful sensory-driven behaviors
3. Utilize evidence-based practices and strategies to build self-regulation skills and replace inappropriate sensory responses with constructive behaviors
4. Develop interventions to replace harmful self-stimulatory and self-injurious behaviors with more effective responses

Session 4: Interventions for Communication-driven Behaviors for Children with Deafblindness or Low Incidence Disabilities

Date: November 17, 2021

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Session4commdriven>

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss how the child's unique perspective in recognizing, trusting, and bonding with others may impact communication and behavioral responses.
2. Understand the importance of concept development for effective communication
3. Explore functional communication and identify when destructive behavior serves as a communicative function
4. Design and implement assessment-based intervention planning using the child's unique needs and skills to teach a new form of communication that is functionally equivalent to the challenging behavior but more effective and efficient
5. Discuss methods to monitor acquisition and maintenance of progress



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