



October 2017

## WASHINGTON, DC ABA TEAM

Hello, Capitol Hill ABA Team! Beginning October 2017, we will be sending out monthly newsletters to support you in remaining informed about upcoming events and staff updates, as well as highlight your accomplishments and contributions each month. *Thank you for all that you do!* We are looking forward to an exciting month ahead!

### New this month: ABA Topic Trainings

In the month of October, we will begin offering weekly ABA trainings! These trainings are an opportunity to review ABA topics and apply material to clinical situations. It is mandatory that you attend **at least one training this month**, but you are welcome to attend as many as you can!! Topics that will be covered this month are: prompting (there will be two sessions on this, covering the same content), functions of behavior, and reinforcement.

Trainings will be held on the following dates in the Capitol Hill ABA Office from 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm

Date	Topic
October 4th	Prompting
October 10th	Prompting
October 19th	Functions of Behavior
October 27th	Reinforcement

We look forward to seeing you!

### Mark Your Calendars:

#### Halloween at National Therapy Center

National Therapy will be hosting a Halloween party for clients and their families on **Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>** from **4:00-6:00 pm**. If you have a client at home during this time frame, you may offer to the family that the session be held at the office. Please let families know that this will be a therapy session and you will be working with their child to support them and embed ABA goals as they complete activities. *Please let Janelle know if you plan to attend the Halloween party!* We look forward to seeing you there!



### CONGRATULATIONS!!

September was an exciting month for the DC ABA Team!! Congrats to our team members for earning BCBA & RBT certifications!



**Janelle McDonald, M.A., BCBA**

Shout out to Janelle- National Therapy's newest Board Certified Behavior Analyst! We are very thankful for Janelle's commitment to children and their families. We are excited for Janelle to continue to grow in her behavior analysis career!



**Jere Smith, BA, RBT**

Congratulations to Jere for passing her Registered Behavior Technician exam! National Therapy ABA team is extremely proud of all her hard work and dedication to her clients!

## TERM OF THE MONTH

### TOPOGRAPHY

**What it is:** Topography is the physical form or shape of the behavior.

**How it applies:** When we define behaviors, we define them using the topography of the behavior. When working with your clients, focus on what you can objectively view. For example, instead of saying the child “acted out,” think of the behaviors that occurred. Did the child hit a table with an open palm? Did they scream for a 2 minute duration at a high pitch? Did they drop to the floor from a standing position? Did they swipe papers off a table? When discussing behaviors with other ABA team members, practice describing behaviors using **topography**.

### Welcome, Carolyn!!

Welcome to **Carolyn Bowen**, National Therapy’s newest BT! Carolyn lives with her husband and two young children on Capitol Hill. She worked as a teacher and special educator at KIPP DC beginning in 2007. She has her MA in Early Childhood Special Education at George Washington University. Carolyn and her family love living in DC and enjoying all of the museums, activities, festivals, and parks that DC has to offer. They enjoy spending time outdoors, camping, and riding bikes. **We are very excited for Carolyn to join the National Therapy ABA Team!**



The four common functions of behavior:

"Everybody E.A.T.S."  
Escape, Attention,  
Tangible, Sensory



someecards  
user card

### Employee Spotlight

Thank you to **Sakura Dobbs** for going above and beyond throughout the month of September! Sakura has demonstrated growth in her clinical skill set and has done an excellent job supporting new clients and families. Thanks for all you do, Sakura!

Thank you to **Cache Nance** for putting together the ABA office bookshelves! Come check out the office and available ABA resources!



### FEEDBACK FORMS

Last month, the DC ABA team started a new feedback system for our Behavior Technicians. Thank you to everybody who took the initiative to think of individualized goals and target areas where you would like to improve as a behavior practitioner! Your devotion to the field and desire to improve as a professional is extremely admirable—we are excited to continue to watch the team grow!!