# Abstract

My summer internship was 120 hours completed from May 23, 2016 until August 2, 2016. I completed my hours at Sage Behavior Services Inc. My time at Sage was spent completing a series of trainings including basic intervention strategies and procedures, modeling/demonstrating, and data collection. I completed hands on activities and practiced skills both "in-class" and in the field during 1 on 1 consultations and social skills building groups.

Projects completed during my internship consisted of creating three visual aids, Picture Exchange Communication Systems as well as three art binders used in therapy sessions.

The purpose of my internship was to gain valuable skills including communication skills, strong work ethic, initiative, problem-solving skills, and analytical skills. My internship goals were to gain knowledge and experience about children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as the role of a behavior interventionist. I wished to gain experience in research-based techniques and assist in Applied Behavior Analysis therapy sessions.

# Methods

Sage Behavior Services is dedicated to providing the highest quality of Applied Behavior Analysis based services to the children and family whom they serve. Behavior analysis originated from the behavioral model. This model states that behavior is determined by the function it performs and evolves each person's unique history of experiences

Behavior Analysis began in the 1930's with work of B.F. Skinner and others. Behavior analysts have conducted approximately 60 years of published, peer-reviewed research on the effectiveness of behavior analytic procedures.

Behavior Analysis is an evidence-based, non-medical treatment approach for behavior problems. ABA is the science, which uses various behavior analytic methods and procedures to make changes to socially significant behaviors. Socially significant behaviors are behaviors that are meaningful and important for the person to lead a more productive and independent life, both at home and in the community.

ABA is founded on the collection and review of direct observation data. There is evidence from thousands of well-controlled studies published in peer-reviewed professional literature documenting the effectiveness with learners with autism of all ages. ABA has established standards for practice and is endorsed as an effective intervention by the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the United States Surgeon General.

## Background/Significance

Sage Behavior Services strives for long-term generalization and maintenance of behavior change. Sage Behavior Services is committed to effective implementation of research-validated behavioral procedures to strengthen the socially significant behaviors of children, families, professionals, and organizations. I was intrigued by an internship at Sage because it is my goal to become a Speech Pathologist. Speech Pathologists provide speech therapy to a variety of individuals for a number of reasons. Some of my future clients will need my services because of their Autism diagnosis. My time at Sage was very valuable in learning how to interact with children with Autism. Being prepared and knowledgeable about this disorder will help me to treat these specific children as a Speech Pathologist to the best of my ability.

**Teach The Way They Learn**

**By: Stephanie Rodriguez**

**Preceptor: Cindy Hebert**

**Sage Behavior Services Inc.**

# Art Binder

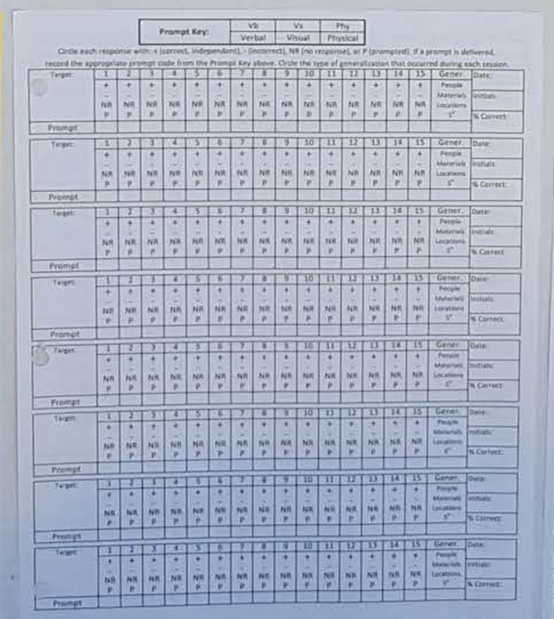
# Lessons Learned

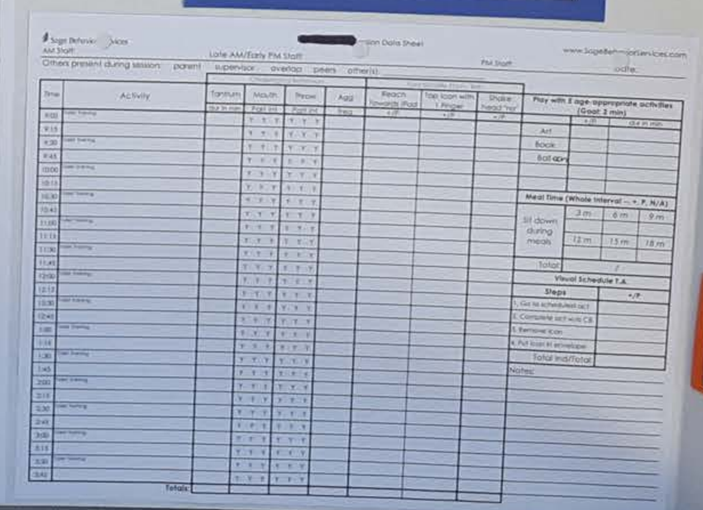
Through this internship I gained knowledge about implementing Applied Behavior Analysis procedures. I am now capable of data collection for ABA sessions. My time at Sage has taught me to create Picture Exchange Communication System binders as well as art binders to be used by clients during sessions. My time at Sage has had an incredible impact on my personal and professional development. The lessons learned while training and spending quality time with clients is invaluable to my future.

There are 2 key lessons that I will carry with me into my professional career. ***Respect*** should be put above all else. Despite all different levels of functioning, children deserve respect be given to their feelings, attitudes, and capabilities. It is not enough to be aware of Autism. Every person should respect and support those affected. O. Ivar Lovaas said it perfectly, "If they can't learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn".

The second most important lesson I learned through all of my wonderful interactions with the children at Sage would be to teach and interact with your eyes ***open***. Teaching with open eyes is not meant to be taken literally, but in a way that a person can see beyond a child's Autism. If an individual focuses only on what limits a child, they will miss each child's ability to be smart, funny, sweet, talented, intelligent, and capable of learning and creating. It is my hope that I can spend my career around children long enough that I can see past my career as trying to change children's lives and instead realize they are changing mine.

# Data Collection




# PECS

I want ?