

Monroe County Early Intervention Program
Challenging Behaviors Resource List - Appendix B

Functional Behavioral Assessment

A child turning 3 who has been referred to their district for being potentially eligible for continued services through the Preschool Special Education Program, and who has behavior issues severe enough to impact his/her developmental progress should receive a FBA as part of the assessment. Part 200.4 (b)(v) Regulations of the Commissioner of Education states that:

*“The individual evaluation must ...include at least:
(v) other appropriate assessments or evaluations, including a **functional behavioral assessment** for a student whose behavior impedes his or her learning or that of others, as necessary to ascertain the physical, mental, behavioral and emotional factors which contribute to the suspected disabilities.”*

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) means the process of determining why a student engages in behaviors that impede learning and how the student’s behavior relates to the environment. The FBA includes, but is not limited to, the problem behavior, the definition of the behavior in concrete terms, the identification of the contextual factors that contribute to the behavior (including cognitive and affective factors) and the formulation of a hypothesis regarding the general conditions under which a behavior usually occurs and probable consequences that serve to maintain it.*

Monroe County 3-5 evaluation teams vary in how they conduct the FBA process. They generally rely on other professionals/parents who know the child to bring the concern to their attention, unless it is evident. Some use a checklist, behavior rating scale, standardized instrument, as well as observation and input from parents and others who know the child. Professionals who conduct the FBA vary depending upon the agency...some use Special Educators, School Psychologists, Behavioral Specialists, Psychologists. Assessing a child’s behavior so that a behavioral plan can be implemented is often an ongoing assessment of data collection over time and can extend into the time that service is being delivered in the 3-5 program.

*definition from 200.1(r) Regulations of the Commissioner of Education

Bibliography

Brown, S.E., Johnson, K.I., & LaRocque, M., *Functional Behavioral Assessments and Intervention Plans in Early Intervention Settings*, Infants and Young Children, January 2001, pp.59-67.