



Is PBS for the dogs?????????

by Calvin & Tricia Luker

Following is a simple examination of the difference between the current education/mental health approach and the functional behavior approach:

A child is being chased every day by a large, vicious dog. He arrives at school and at home winded, trembling, frightened, and unable to concentrate. He repeatedly attempts to blurt out what is happening to him.

Current education/mental health practices would have adults around him describe the behavior using a Behavior Rating Scale. Parents and teachers would check frightened, agitated, disruptive, fearful, jumpy and winded.

Functional behavioral assessment requires a look at **where, when and under what circumstances the behavior occurs** so that we may determine the **purpose** of behavior . . . to escape from the dog.

Under the current education/mental health model, the child is given anti-anxiety medication, some Ritalin and maybe even some albuterol for the "asthma . " A team writes a plan to address the blurting out. The plan says, "Given a classroom or home setting, the student will not blurt out."

No one addresses the dog.

Under the functional assessment model, you lock up the dog.