

# MONTHLY TIP - DECEMBER 2017



## BEHAVIOR SERVICES

### Generalization & Teaching Loosely

#### What does it mean when a skill or appropriate behavior is generalized?

- If a skill or appropriate behavior occurs at other times and in other settings without having to be taught in those settings and/or times, generalized has occurred.

*Example of a behavior that is not generalized:* Mrs. Jones is a special education teacher. She is teaching Joey, a 2nd grader how to gain attention. Mrs. Jones teaches Joey to raise his hand to gain attention. Joey will raise his hand to gain Mrs. Jones' attention, but does not raise his hand with Mr. Evans, the general education teacher.

*Example of a generalized behavior:* Mrs. Jones is a special education teacher. She is teaching Joey, a 2nd grader how to gain attention. Mrs. Jones teaches Joey multiple ways to gain attention, using different staff members. Joey raises his hand to gain Mr. Evan's, the general education teacher, attention. Joey will also go up to Mrs. Swanson, a para within the classroom, and tap her on the shoulder to get her attention.

#### Is every skill or appropriate behavior automatically generalized?

-Not all skills or appropriate behaviors are generalized. It is important to recognize this and program for the generalization of these skills and appropriate behaviors.

#### We can "Teach Loosely" to program for generalization:

-When we teach loosely, we look at varying different aspects within the instructional environment that won't take away from the information being taught.

#### What are some ways we can teach loosely?

- Use 2 or more teachers/staff
  - o Example: teacher and para
- Vary your directives
  - o Example: use different phrases such as "find the \_\_\_\_\_", "point to the \_\_\_\_\_", "touch \_\_\_\_\_"
- Teach in 2 or more places
  - o Example: table and desk
- Vary the times of day you teach the skill
  - o Example: morning and after lunch
- Vary the people present within the instructional setting
  - o Peers present, other paras in the classroom

Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2007). Generalization and maintenance of behavior change. In A.C. Davis & L. H. Bayma (Eds.), Applied behavior analysis (pp. 614-655). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Educational International.

For more information:



Clinical Manager of  
Behavior Services  
507-825-5858

[www.swsc.org/behavior](http://www.swsc.org/behavior)

## The SWWC Behavior Team



Melissa Andree



Hazel Ashbeck



Sara Athman



Robert Beringer



Jason Dybsetter



Trista Linn



Marissa Stordahl



Kari Tschida

### Upcoming Events Behavior Conference

Monday, April 9, 2018  
Marshall, MN

or

Tuesday, April 10, 2018  
Brookings, SD

~Registration Coming Soon~