

Question:

Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association is currently addressing some issues with applied behavior analysis (ABA) in their state and is looking for information/comments and/or suggestions on the following questions:

1. What are some positive relationships with speech-language pathologists (SLPs)/ABAs that you have experienced?
2. Are there any other states that are having issues with ABA in regards to infringement from ABA professionals into SLPs scope of practice?

WSLHA is trying to get some additional information on this topic and find a way for the two professions to have a better working relationship.

Ashleigh Solak CCC-SLP
WSLHA President

Answers:

Dear Ashleigh Solak CCC-SLP WSLHA President,

NJSHA recently held an Inter-professional Autism Conference which include ABA therapist, many who were certified in both SLP/BCBA.

NJ has significant issues with many ABA, especially the puristic. Some SLPs have shared that students have requested parents to rescind speech-language goals in order for their children to remain in their specialty private school. They do not want anyone interfering with the ABA program. This includes OT/PT/and SLP. The DOE put out a letter two years ago stating that all services within the IEP must be delivered within the school day or risk losing funding for these students in the private school placement.

Mary Faella, NJSHA