

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) Checklist

November 2023

The FBA must be completed by one of the following Clinicians:

- Licensed Psychologist
- APRN
- LIMHP
- BCBA (with the supervision of a licensed Psychologist, LIMHP, or APRN)

** A new FBA is required if it was not completed by one of the above clinicians.

The FBA must include the following elements:

- Identification of specific observable measurable target behavior(s). For example, physical aggression instead of anxiety, thoughts, feelings, etc.
- Include the participant's strengths, needs, and preferences.
- Assessment of the level of risk to the participant and others when displaying the target behaviors.
- Identification of the function (purpose) of each of the target behaviors. The function explains what the person is communicating through their target behaviors. The following are the functions of behavior:

Escape: Removes undesired activities or interactions.

Attention: Provides access to people or interactions.

Tangible: Provides preferred items or activities.

Sensory: Provides preferred sensory experiences; behavior feels good to do.

If the FBA states that the function of behavior in emotion-related terms such as intimidation, revenge, frustration, and/or control, request that the clinician re-evaluate the function of behavior in relationship to the above four functions of behavior.

- Identification of the functionally matched positive replacement behavior(s) that is/are easier and receive more reinforcement than the target behavior. For example, Physical Aggression function is attention, replacement behavior also gets attention.
- Recommendations for interventions to address target behavior and teach/reinforce replacement behavior including, but not limited to:
 - Environmental Changes: too hot, cold, loud, bright, and/or crowded.
 - Interactions: frequency of engagement, type of engagement, make sure has meaningful choices, time to process requests.
 - Identifies reinforcers for replacement behavior.
 - How to teach replacement behaviors or make them stronger if the person already has the replacement behaviors in their repertoire.
 - Interventions for addressing target behaviors that do not reinforce the target behavior

Important Tips:

- Target behaviors listed in an FBA must also match the identified risks in the Person-Centered Plan.
- If any of these elements are missing, ask the clinician who completed the assessment to add them to the assessment. If the assessment includes recommendations that are prohibited practices, aversive, or use of punishment, ask that they be removed.
- A new FBA is not required annually.
- An FBA can be updated by completing an assessment of the behavior in an addendum attached to the FBA when:
 - A new behavior emerges or an old behavior reemerges.
 - The participant's needs have changed.
 - The BSP is no longer effective or meeting the participant's needs, or progress is not being made/target behaviors are not decreasing.
 - If progress is not being made, observe the staff running the BSP to see if it is being run as written.