

aba and conversion therapy

ABA and Conversion Therapy: A Critical Examination

Author: Dr. Eleanor Vance, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctorate) - Dr. Vance is a licensed clinical psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst with over 15 years of experience working with autistic individuals and individuals struggling with various mental health conditions. Her research focuses on ethical considerations in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the prevention of harmful practices.

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Introduction: Understanding the Nexus of ABA and Conversion Therapy

The intersection of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and conversion therapy represents a complex and ethically fraught area. While ABA is a widely accepted and effective therapy for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, its misuse has been linked to attempts at changing sexual orientation or gender identity—practices widely condemned as conversion therapy. This article aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of ABA and conversion therapy, exploring the ethical dilemmas involved and highlighting the dangers of misappropriating ABA techniques for this purpose.

What is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)?

ABA is a scientifically validated therapeutic approach that focuses on observable behaviors. It involves identifying target behaviors, analyzing their antecedents (what precedes the behavior) and consequences (what follows the behavior), and developing interventions to modify those behaviors. ABA is grounded in the principles of learning theory and has proven highly effective in treating a range of developmental and behavioral challenges, particularly

in individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Effective ABA emphasizes positive reinforcement strategies, focusing on teaching desired behaviors rather than solely punishing undesirable ones.

The Misuse of ABA in Conversion Therapy

The term "conversion therapy" encompasses a range of practices aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. These practices are widely considered to be harmful and ineffective, lacking scientific support and often leading to significant psychological distress. The dangerous misuse of ABA and conversion therapy lies in the misapplication of ABA's principles to attempt to suppress or eliminate same-sex attraction or gender nonconformity. This often involves:

Aversive conditioning: Pairing same-sex attraction or gender expression with negative stimuli, such as electric shocks or unpleasant imagery. This technique is ethically reprehensible and can cause severe psychological trauma.

Reinforcement of heteronormative behaviors: Rewarding behaviors deemed consistent with heterosexuality or traditional gender roles, while punishing behaviors perceived as non-heteronormative. This approach reinforces harmful societal norms and reinforces internalized homophobia and transphobia.

Punishment of same-sex attraction: Actively punishing any expression or acknowledgment of same-sex attraction or gender identity inconsistent with the therapist's goals.

These practices are fundamentally different from legitimate ABA therapy. Genuine ABA focuses on improving an individual's life by teaching functional skills and addressing problematic behaviors within an ethical and supportive framework. In contrast, the application of ABA and conversion therapy is explicitly aimed at changing a core aspect of an individual's identity, causing significant harm.

The Ethical Implications of ABA and Conversion Therapy

The ethical implications of attempting to use ABA for conversion therapy are profound. Professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Medical Association, have all strongly condemned conversion therapy. The ethical violations include:

Violation of autonomy: Conversion therapy violates a person's right to self-determination and the freedom to express their own identity.

Infliction of harm: The practices used in conversion therapy are demonstrably harmful, causing psychological distress, anxiety, depression, self-harm, and even suicide.

Misrepresentation of ABA: Using ABA techniques in conversion therapy misrepresents the therapeutic approach and undermines its legitimate uses. It erodes public trust in both ABA and the mental health profession.

Lack of informed consent: Individuals undergoing conversion therapy are often coerced or misled into believing that it is a necessary or beneficial

treatment.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations: LGBTQ+ Youth and ABA

LGBTQ+ youth are particularly vulnerable to the harms of conversion therapy. The combination of societal stigma, family pressure, and internalized homophobia or transphobia can make them susceptible to the claims of therapists promoting these damaging practices. It's crucial to understand that ABA and conversion therapy represent a gross misuse of ABA's principles. Legitimate ABA practitioners have a responsibility to actively advocate against this harmful practice and ensure that their work aligns with ethical guidelines and promotes the well-being of their clients.

Distinguishing Ethical ABA from Harmful Practices

It's essential to differentiate between ethical ABA therapy and its harmful misuse in conversion therapy. Ethical ABA practices:

- Focus on improving quality of life and functioning.
- Prioritize the client's autonomy and self-determination.
- Employ evidence-based techniques with measurable outcomes.
- Employ positive reinforcement strategies rather than punishment.
- Ensure informed consent and ongoing client participation.

Legal and Regulatory Responses

Many jurisdictions have recognized the harms of conversion therapy and have enacted laws to ban or restrict these practices. These laws often cover minors and vulnerable adults, recognizing their susceptibility to coercion and the potential for irreparable damage.

Conclusion

The use of ABA and conversion therapy is unequivocally unethical and harmful. The misapplication of ABA principles for the purpose of changing sexual orientation or gender identity violates ethical guidelines, inflicts psychological distress, and undermines the integrity of a valuable therapeutic approach. Continued vigilance, education, and advocacy are essential to prevent this harmful practice and ensure that ABA is used only to support the well-being of individuals.

FAQs

1. Is ABA therapy ever appropriate for addressing issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity? No, ABA should never be used to attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Ethical ABA

focuses on improving functioning and quality of life, not on changing fundamental aspects of a person's identity.

1. What are the signs that someone is undergoing conversion therapy? Signs may include secretive sessions with a therapist, increased anxiety or depression, avoidance of LGBTQ+ communities, and statements expressing shame or guilt about their sexual orientation or gender identity.
1. Where can I find support if I or someone I know is affected by conversion therapy? Contact The Trevor Project, GLAAD, PFLAG, or other organizations that support LGBTQ+ individuals.
1. Are there legal repercussions for practitioners engaging in conversion therapy? Many jurisdictions have laws prohibiting conversion therapy, making it a criminal offense.
1. What role do parents play in protecting children from conversion therapy? Parents should educate themselves about the dangers of conversion therapy and actively advocate for their children's acceptance and well-being.
1. How can I identify a qualified and ethical ABA therapist? Look for therapists with appropriate credentials, such as BCBA certification, and who adhere to ethical guidelines.
1. What is the difference between ethical ABA and conversion therapy? Ethical ABA focuses on improving a person's life skills and behaviors, while conversion therapy aims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
1. What are the long-term effects of conversion therapy? Long-term effects can include severe depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse, self-harm, and suicide.
1. What can I do to help prevent conversion therapy? Advocate for legislation banning conversion therapy, support LGBTQ+ organizations, and educate others about its harmful effects.

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aba and conversion therapy: *I Have Been Buried Under Years of Dust* Valerie Gilpeer, Emily Grodin, 2021-04-06 A remarkable memoir by a mother and her autistic daughter who'd long been unable to communicate—until a miraculous breakthrough revealed a young woman with a rich and creative interior life, a poet, who'd been trapped inside for more than two decades. "I have been buried under years of dust and now I have so much to say." These were the first words twenty-five-year-old Emily Grodin ever wrote. Born with nonverbal autism, Emily's only means of communicating for a quarter of a century had been only one-word responses or physical gestures. That Emily was intelligent had never been in question—from an early age she'd shown clear signs that she understood what was going on though she could not express herself. Her parents, Valerie and Tom, sought every therapy possible in the hope that Emily would one day be able to reveal herself. When this miraculous breakthrough occurred, Emily was finally able to give insight into the life, frustrations, and joys of a person with autism. She could tell her parents what her younger years had been like and reveal all the emotions and intelligence residing within her; she became their guide into the autistic experience. Told by Valerie, with insights and stories and poetry from Emily, *I Have Been Buried Under Years of Dust* highlights key moments of Emily's childhood that led to her communication awakening—and how her ability rapidly accelerated after she wrote that first sentence. As Valerie tells her family's story, she shares the knowledge she's gained from working as a legal advocate for families affected by autism and other neurological disorders. A story of unconditional love, faith in the face of difficulty, and the grace of perseverance and acceptance, *I Have Been Buried Under Years of Dust* is an evocative and affecting mother-daughter memoir of learning to see each other for who they are.

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the expense of their patients' self-esteem. Sexual Conversion Therapy features first-person accounts of patients and clinicians, including psychotherapists who themselves have undergone treatments ranging from psychoanalysis to religious faith healing to aversion behavior conditioning and even electroshock therapy. In addition to examining the history and ethics of conversion therapy, the book presents empirical data on current practice and recovery processes for survivors of failed conversion attempts. Sexual Conversion Therapy presents current perspectives on the harmful impact of sexual orientation interventions, including: "Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey" "Becoming Gay" "A Psychologist's Journey Through the Ex-Gay Movement" "Therapeutic Antidotes: Gay and Bisexual Men Recover from Conversion Therapies" "I'm Your Handyman: A History of Reparative Therapies" Nearly 30 years after the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, a small but dedicated group of mental health practitioners continues to diagnose and treat homosexuality as a mental illness. Sexual Conversion Therapy is an essential alternative to the bulk of published material that champions treatments that produce a handful of heterosexuals "cured" of their "illness," while inflicting emotional and psychological damage on countless gay and lesbian patients who failed to convert.

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plans aimed at both increasing your child's positive behaviors and decreasing unwanted or problem behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorders. Take a deep dive into topics like punishment alternatives, the power of reinforcement, communication and cooperation, and teaching complex behaviors in straightforward ways. All parenting books on autism should include: An introduction to ABA—Learn more about applied behavior analysis, including how and why it's used to treat people with autism, how you can get your child on board, and what you need to get started.

Strengths-based strategies—Explore techniques that are positive and strengths-based, rather than punishing or pathologizing, so your child is empowered to meet, and even exceed, the goals you envision for them. Examples of ABA in practice—Read real-life examples of these techniques in action to help you understand how these new skills and strategies address the everyday situations you and your child with autism face. Support your child with autism as they build necessary social and life skills with help from these practical, evidence-based techniques.

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the world. As a catalyst to promote health and wellbeing music therapy is both objective and explorative. The Oxford Handbook of Queer and Trans Music Therapy (QTMT) is a celebration of queer, trans, bisexual and gender nonconforming identities and the spontaneous creativity that is at the heart of queer music-making. As an emerging approach in the 21st century QTMT challenges perspectives and narratives from ethnocentric and cisheteronormative traditions, that have dominated the field. Raising the essential question of what it means to create queer and trans spaces in music therapy, this book presents an open discourse on the need for change and new beginnings. The therapists, musicians and artists included in this book collectively embody and represent a range of theory, research and practice that are central to the essence and core values of QTMT. This book does not shy away from the sociopolitical issues that challenge music therapy as a dominantly white, heteronormative, and cisgendered profession. Music as a therapeutic force has the potential to transform us in unique and extraordinary ways. In this book music and words are presented as innovative equals in describing and evaluating QTMT as a newly defined approach.

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aba and conversion therapy: Verbal Behavior B. F. Skinner, 2014-05-26 In 1934, at the age of 30, B. F. Skinner found himself at a dinner sitting next to Professor Alfred North Whitehead. Never one to lose an opportunity to promote behaviorism, Skinner expounded its main tenets to the distinguished philosopher. Whitehead acknowledged that science might account for most of human behavior but he would not include verbal behavior. He ended the discussion with a challenge: Let me see you, he said, account for my behavior as I sit here saying, 'No black scorpion is falling upon this table.' The next morning Skinner began this book. It took him over twenty years to complete. This book extends the laboratory-based principles of selection by consequences to account for what people say, write, gesture, and think. Skinner argues that verbal behavior requires a separate analysis because it does not operate on the environment directly, but rather through the behavior of other people in a verbal community. He illustrates his thesis with examples from literature, the arts, and sciences, as well as from his own verbal behavior and that of his colleagues and children. Perhaps it is because this theoretical work provides a way to approach that most human of human behavior that Skinner often called Verbal Behavior his most important work.

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Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community, 2009-07-29 Scores of talented and dedicated people serve the forensic science community, performing vitally important work. However, they are often constrained by lack of adequate resources, sound policies, and national support. It is clear that change and advancements, both systematic and scientific, are needed in a number of forensic science disciplines to ensure the reliability of work, establish enforceable standards, and promote best practices with consistent application. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward provides a detailed plan for addressing these needs and suggests the creation of a new government entity, the National Institute of Forensic Science, to establish and enforce standards within the forensic science community. The benefits of improving and regulating the forensic science disciplines are clear: assisting law enforcement officials, enhancing homeland security, and reducing the risk of wrongful conviction and exoneration. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States gives a full account of what is needed to advance the forensic science disciplines, including upgrading of systems and organizational structures, better training, widespread adoption of uniform and enforceable best practices, and mandatory certification and accreditation programs. While this book provides an essential call-to-action for congress and policy makers, it also serves as a vital tool for law enforcement agencies, criminal prosecutors and attorneys, and forensic science educators.

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aba and conversion therapy: Contextual Behavior Therapy for Sexual and Gender Minority Clients Matthew D. Skinta, 2020-11-22 Combining theory, research, and case studies, this book shows clinicians how to apply transdiagnostic contextual behavioral approaches when working with sexual and gender minority (SGM) clients. The text first examines minority stress theory through the lens of contextual behavior analysis. Subsequent chapters illustrate the application of therapeutic techniques drawn from acceptance and commitment therapy, functional analytic psychotherapy, and compassion-focused therapy. The book concludes with a close look at special areas of consideration, including pre-surgical evaluation, the impact of HIV on SGM communities, ethical considerations, and future directions in therapy with SGM clients. Every chapter provides a series of diverse vignettes that illustrate how each aspect of treatment might build upon the last along with a list of recommended books for further exploration of that topic. This book offers a unique, integrated approach that can be used for case conceptualization and followed as a treatment manual for professionals or graduate students with a foundation in SGM psychology.

aba and conversion therapy: You're Not Crazy Laurie Singer, 2021-04-13 This book will change your life. *You're Not Crazy: Living with Anxiety, Obsessions and Fetishes* is designed to help those who suffer deeply from anxiety and its manifestations, especially in these times of escalating

mental health concerns exacerbated by the devastating pandemic. Are you suffering from any of the following? Anxiety (a feeling of worry, nervousness or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome) Agoraphobia (an extreme or irrational fear of entering open or crowded places, of leaving one's own home or of being in places from which escape is difficult) Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (a disorder in which a person feels compelled to perform certain actions repeatedly to alleviate persistent fears or intrusive thoughts, typically resulting in severe disruption of daily life) Excoriation (a compulsion to damage or remove part of the surface of the skin) Fetishes (a form of sexual desire in which gratification is linked to an abnormal degree with a particular object, item of clothing or part of the body) Conversion Disorder (exhibiting psychosomatic symptoms including blindness, the inability to speak, numbness and paralysis). This illuminating workbook is filled with stories of humanity at its neurotic quirkiest who find life-altering transformation and offers readers a methodical solution that can liberate them from similar anxiety-based maladies. Those who either suffer from such afflictions or who are family members of someone in desperate need of help will find hope in these pages as they read the stories of patients who discover empowerment, newfound confidence and, most importantly, the burst of freedom that comes with a rapid correction of maladaptive behaviors.

aba and conversion therapy: *Goodbye, I Love You* Carol Lynn Pearson, 2006-10 The true story of a wife, her homosexual husband, and a love that transcended tragedy. Gerald Pearson had been honest with Carol Lynn about his homosexual past, but both of them had faith that marriage and devotion to their religion would change his orientation. Love would conquer all. Then, after eight years of apparent happiness and the birth of four children, Gerald was no longer able to deny what he considered to be his essential self. Carol Lynn was shattered, her self-esteem all but destroyed. Their divorce, however, could not erase a lifetime of love and mutual support. Carol Lynn courageously stood by her former husband's side. Even when he contracted AIDS - and came home to die.

aba and conversion therapy: *Understanding Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis* Ann Beirne, Jacob A. Sadavoy, 2021-12-23 This book provides the foundation for a lifelong journey of ethical practice in service for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. The second edition of *Understanding Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis* includes an explanation of each element in the Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts, along with considerations for ethical practice and examples from the field. Professional behavior for the behavior analyst is also addressed when fulfilling roles as teacher, employee, manager, colleague, advocate, or member of a multidisciplinary team. This new edition expands on the first chapter's introduction of moral philosophy, adds a new chapter on ethical decision-making and core principles, and provides a study guide to assist those preparing for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board exams. Drawing upon Beirne and Sadavoy's combined 40 years of clinical experience as well as the reflections of colleagues in the field, this is an indispensable guide to ethics for behavior analysis students.

aba and conversion therapy: *The Verbal Behavior Approach* Mary Lynch Barbera, 2007-05-15 The Verbal Behavior (VB) approach is a form of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), that is based on B.F. Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior and works particularly well with children with minimal or no speech abilities. In this book Dr. Mary Lynch Barbera draws on her own experiences as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and also as a parent of a child with autism to explain VB and how to use it. This step-by-step guide provides an abundance of information about how to help children develop better language and speaking skills, and also explains how to teach non-vocal children to use sign language. An entire chapter focuses on ways to reduce problem behavior, and there is also useful information on teaching toileting and other important self-help skills, that would benefit any child. This book will enable parents and professionals unfamiliar with the principles of ABA and VB to get started immediately using the Verbal Behavior approach to teach children with autism and related disorders.

aba and conversion therapy: *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8* Naoki Higashida, 2017-07-11 A story never before told and a memoir to help change our understanding of the world around us,

13-year-old Naoki Higashida's astonishing, empathetic book takes us into the mind of a boy with severe autism. With an introduction by David Mitchell, author of the global phenomenon, *Cloud Atlas*, and translated by his wife, KA Yoshida. Naoki Higashida was only a middle-schooler when he began to write *The Reason I Jump*. Autistic and with very low verbal fluency, Naoki used an alphabet grid to painstakingly spell out his answers to the questions he imagines others most often wonder about him: why do you talk so loud? Is it true you hate being touched? Would you like to be normal? The result is an inspiring, attitude-transforming book that will be embraced by anyone interested in understanding their fellow human beings, and by parents, caregivers, teachers, and friends of autistic children. Naoki examines issues as diverse and complex as self-harm, perceptions of time and beauty, and the challenges of communication, and in doing so, discredits the popular belief that autistic people are anti-social loners who lack empathy. This book is mesmerizing proof that inside an autistic body is a mind as subtle, curious, and caring as anyone else's.

aba and conversion therapy: *We Cannot Be Silent* R. Albert Mohler, Jr., 2015-10-27 Twenty years ago, not one nation on earth had legal same-sex marriage. Now, access to same-sex marriage is increasingly seen as a basic human right. In a matter of less than a generation, western cultures have experienced a moral revolution. Dr. R. Albert Mohler examines how this transformation occurred, revealing the underlying cultural shifts behind this revolution: the acceptance of divorce culture, liberation of sex from reproduction, the prevalence of heterosexual cohabitation, the normalization of homosexuality, and the rise of the transgender movement. He then offers a deep look at how the Bible and Christian moral tradition provide a comprehensive understanding upon which Christians can build their personal lives, their marriages, church ministry, and cultural engagement. Dr. Mohler helps Christians in their understanding of the underlying issues of this significant cultural shift and how to face the challenge of believing faithfully, living faithfully, and engaging the culture faithfully in light of this massive change.

aba and conversion therapy: *A Thorn in My Pocket* Eustacia Cutler, 2016-12-31 The mother of the most famous person with autism today, Temple Grandin, Ph.D., tells the story of her death-lock struggle with medical authorities and her husband to keep her daughter from being warehoused in an institution, delving into myth and reality, angst and guilt, family and society ultimately defining the travails of all of humanity.

aba and conversion therapy: *Against Technoableism: Rethinking Who Needs Improvement* Ashley Shew, 2023-09-19 One of BookRiot's Ten Best Disability Books of the Year Shortlisted for the Inc. Non-Obvious Book Awards "Wonderfully lucid." —Andrew Leland, New York Times Book Review A manifesto exploding what we think we know about disability, and arguing that disabled people are the real experts when it comes to technology and disability. When bioethicist and professor Ashley Shew became a self-described "hard-of-hearing chemobrain amputee with Crohn's disease and tinnitus," there was no returning to "normal." Suddenly well-meaning people called her an "inspiration" while grocery shopping or viewed her as a needy recipient of technological wizardry. Most disabled people don't want what the abled assume they want—nor are they generally asked. Almost everyone will experience disability at some point in their lives, yet the abled persistently frame disability as an individual's problem rather than a social one. In a warm, feisty voice and vibrant prose, Shew shows how we can create better narratives and more accessible futures by drawing from the insights of the cross-disability community. To forge a more equitable world, Shew argues that we must eliminate "technoableism"—the harmful belief that technology is a "solution" for disability; that the disabled simply await being "fixed" by technological wizardry; that making society more accessible and equitable is somehow a lesser priority. This badly needed introduction to disability expertise considers mobility devices, medical infrastructure, neurodivergence, and the crucial relationship between disability and race. The future, Shew points out, is surely disabled—whether through changing climate, new diseases, or even through space travel. It's time we looked closely at how we all think about disability technologies and learn to envision disabilities not as liabilities, but as skill sets enabling all of us to navigate a challenging world.

aba and conversion therapy: *Applied Behavior Analysis* John O. Cooper, Timothy E. Heron,

William L. Heward, 2013-07-15 The long-awaited second edition of the classic textbook, *Applied Behavior Analysis*, provides a comprehensive, in-depth discussion of the field, providing a complete description of the principles and procedures needed to systematically change socially significant behavior and to understand the reasons for that change. The authors' goal in revising this best-selling text was to introduce students to ABA in as complete, technically accurate, and contemporary manner as possible. As a result, the book's scope, treatment of various principles, procedures, and issues suggest that it is intended for concentrated and serious study. Readers of the new second edition will appreciate the inclusion of: more than 1,400 citations to primary-source literature, including both classic and contemporary studies; a glossary of more than 400 technical terms and concepts; more than 100 graphs displaying original data from peer-reviewed research, with detailed descriptions of the procedures used to collect the data represented; five new chapters written by leading scholars in the field of behavior analysis; and the addition of The Behavior Analyst Certification Board(r) BCBA(r) and BCABA(r) Behavior Analyst Task List, Third Edition. First published in 1987, *Applied Behavior Analysis* remains the top-choice primary text for appropriate courses at universities in the United States and abroad with leading programs in behavior analysis. This comprehensive text, best-suited for all upper-level courses in basic principles, applications, and behavioral research methods, helps students, educators, and practitioners appreciate and begin to acquire the conceptual and technical skills necessary to foster socially adaptive behavior in diverse individuals.

aba and conversion therapy: The Homework Myth Alfie Kohn, 2007-04-03 Death and taxes come later; what seems inevitable for children is the idea that, after spending the day at school, they must then complete more academic assignments at home. The predictable results: stress and conflict, frustration and exhaustion. Parents respond by reassuring themselves that at least the benefits outweigh the costs. But what if they don't? In *The Homework Myth*, nationally known educator and parenting expert Alfie Kohn systematically examines the usual defenses of homework--that it promotes higher achievement, reinforces learning, and teaches study skills and responsibility. None of these assumptions, he shows, actually passes the test of research, logic, or experience. So why do we continue to administer this modern cod liver oil -- or even demand a larger dose? Kohn's incisive analysis reveals how a mistrust of children, a set of misconceptions about learning, and a misguided focus on competitiveness have all left our kids with less free time and our families with more conflict. Pointing to parents who have fought back -- and schools that have proved educational excellence is possible without homework -- Kohn shows how we can rethink what happens during and after school in order to rescue our families and our children's love of learning.

aba and conversion therapy: Unfinished Lives Stephen V. Sprinkle, 2011-01-20 Over 13,000 Americans have been murdered in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries because of their sexual orientation and gender presentation. In *Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memory of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims*, Stephen Sprinkle puts a human face on the outrage and loss suffered when people die from anti-gay hatred. Beginning with new developments in the story of Matthew Shepard's murder in Laramie, Wyoming, Sprinkle tells the stories of fourteen representative LGBTQ victims whose lives were savagely cut short due to homophobia and transphobia. These are stories about people who could be your neighbor, classmate, co-worker, or friend--real, everyday people whose love was foreclosed, relationships brutally terminated, and future contributions stolen from us by outrageous, irrational hatred. Told lovingly yet unflinchingly, *Unfinished Lives* lifts the stories of these LGBTQ victims from undeserved obscurity, allowing their memory to live again. Relying on personal interviews and visits to the locations where these people lived, loved, and died, Sprinkle records the raw emotions, powerful movements for social change, and unexpectedly hopeful communities that arise from the ruins of those people whose only offense was to live as they were born to be. Part portraiture, part crime narrative, and part ethnography, *Unfinished Lives* is poised to change the conversation on hate crimes in the United States.

aba and conversion therapy: Functional Behavioral Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Ennio Cipani, Keven M. Schock, 2007-06-18 As a teaching and instructional guide,

Functional Behavior Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment is a first-rate resource for students and young professionals new to the field of ABA or looking to expand their knowledge and practice competencies.--New England Psychologist [This book provides] the practicing behavior analyst [with] a well-grounded tool in completing the process from analysis to treatment. I highly recommend the book for all practicing behavior analysts as well as for graduate students entering the field. Michael F. Dorsey, Ph.D., BCBA Professor of Program in Applied Behavior Analysis, Endicott College ...one of the most detailed, practical, and useful textbooks geared for behavioral graduate students who are also concurrent practitioners....I learned a lot in one semester with the use of this textbook. Albee Ongsucu Doctoral Student, Pediatric School Psychology, East Carolina University Ever since I began assigning Functional Behavioral Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment for my courses on behavioral assessment, I have had no complaints (from students) about giving out too many pages to read each week. In fact, I have only had positive comments about how the material in this book really helps them to apply what they are learning in class to their work with clients. Now I recommend this text to faculty I supervise for their courses on functional assessment and treatment planning! Jose A. Martinez-Diaz, PhD, BCBA-D Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Behavior Analysis Florida Institute of Technology & CEO, ABA Technologies, Inc. Now in its second edition, this popular text provides a comprehensive approach to functional behavioral assessment, a function-based diagnostic classification system of the target problem, and functional behavioral treatment. This new edition also provides a wealth of new case studies, some drawn from the authors' own clinical experiences, in addition to a greater analysis of the role of establishing operations (EO) and abolishing operations (AO). An ideal textbook for courses in Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), this book helps students cultivate an in-depth understanding of assessing, diagnosing, and treating problem behaviors in a functional perspective. Key features: Provides a methodology for functional behavioral assessment, including indirect as well as direct measurement techniques such as analogue and in-situ methods Includes innovative recommendations for conducting descriptive and trigger analyses and discusses how to use them in assessment and treatment evaluation Presents a function-based, diagnostic classification system for diagnosing problem behaviors, as well as functional diagnostic system for assessing the current strength of potential replacement behaviors Includes integrated online ancillary materials for students-brief narrated PowerPoint presentations and video lectures-ideal for generating class discussions Features an online instructor's manual, including test items and PowerPoint slides for use in lectures

aba and conversion therapy: Authoring Autism M. Remi Yergeau, 2018-01-05 In Authoring Autism M. Remi Yergeau defines neurodivergence as an identity—neuroqueerness—rather than an impairment. Using a queer theory framework, Yergeau notes the stereotypes that deny autistic people their humanity and the chance to define themselves while also challenging cognitive studies scholarship and its reification of the neurological passivity of autistics. They also critique early intensive behavioral interventions—which have much in common with gay conversion therapy—and questions the ableist privileging of intentionality and diplomacy in rhetorical traditions. Using storytelling as their method, they present an alternative view of autistic rhetoricity by foregrounding the cunning rhetorical abilities of autistics and by framing autism as a narrative condition wherein autistics are the best-equipped people to define their experience. Contending that autism represents a queer way of being that simultaneously embraces and rejects the rhetorical, Yergeau shows how autistic people queer the lines of rhetoric, humanity, and agency. In so doing, they demonstrate how an autistic rhetoric requires the reconceptualization of rhetoric's very essence.

aba and conversion therapy: Anything but Straight Wayne Besen, 2012-07-26 The real story behind “ex-gay” ministries and reparative therapy! Nationally known activist Wayne Besen spent four years examining the phenomenon of “ex-gay” ministries and reparative therapies—interviewing leaders, attending conferences, and visiting ministries undercover as he accumulated hundreds of hours of research. The result is Anything but Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth, a groundbreaking exposé of the controversial movement that's revered by independent

religious groups and reviled by gay and lesbian organizations. The book presents a historical perspective on the dispute, examining “ex-gay” groups such as Love In Action, Exodus International, Homosexuals Anonymous, and profiling a cast of characters that includes Pat Robertson, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, “ex-gay” poster boy John Paulk, National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality activist Richard Cohen, and psychiatrist Dr. Robert Spitzer. An in-depth, well-researched, and historically significant account, *Anything but Straight* is full of startling facts and alarming surprises. The original content and novel material in the book includes: a first-ever comprehensive history of the “ex-gay” ministries and “reparative therapy” the inside story of the night the author photographed “ex-gay” poster boy John Paulk inside a gay bar the author's discovery that Anne Paulk lied about being a lesbian and has admitted to having a strong attraction to men BEFORE she became “ex-gay” previously undisclosed bizarre techniques used by the “ex-gay” ministries and “reparative therapists” the author's exclusive in-depth interviews with leading “ex-gay” leaders—they disclose their deepest secrets, hidden desires, and true motivations an extraordinary new study that shows that most “ex-gay” leaders have suffered from substance abuse or severe emotional problems—while many “ex-gay” leaders claim they were “unhappy being gay,” this report helps prove that their dissatisfactions came not from their homosexuality, but from poor life choices and irresponsible behavior new revelations that one of the nation's leading “reparative therapists” hailed from a secretive cult that was scandalized for practicing nude therapy From the author: Through my extensive experience, I have learned that the extraordinary claims made by the “ex-gay” groups are without merit and the efficacy of their programs is dubious at best and harmful at worst . . . One frequent question I get is, “Why can't gay activists simply leave 'ex-gay' groups alone and let them go about their business?” This is exactly what happened for nearly three decades while “ex-gay” groups labored in near anonymity. But all this recently changed when the “ex-gay” groups intricately aligned themselves with the anti-gay political agenda of the Religious Right. With “ex-gays” added to their arsenal, the Right could disingenuously claim to love gay people and offer them “hope for change,” while simultaneously fighting for punitive legislation. Their insidious message: Since gays and lesbians can change, there is no need for laws that protect them against arbitrary prejudice. *Anything but Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth* is an essential read for activists on both sides of the “ex-gay” fence, family members of gays and lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Transgender church members, psychiatric and social science professionals, and anyone who has dealt with “coming out” issues. An appendix of resources and a helpful bibliography make it easy to find additional information on this fascinating topic.

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