



Ross, R., (2007). Beyond autism treatment: The application of applied behavior analysis in the treatment of emotional and psychological disorders. *International Journal of Behavioral Consultation and Therapy*, 3(4), 528–536. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ801237.pdf>

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as a best practice solution for Autism is a well known topic in the social sciences and education industries. Ross (2007) discusses why ABA is not necessarily such a common practice for individuals with emotional and/or psychological disorders and it can be and probably should be. Some of his questions explored potential reasons why ABA is not as prevalent in diagnoses other than Autism. Barriers to collaboration include terminology and pragmatics between the disciplines, descriptive differences between behavior analytic and non-behavior analytic approaches (e.g., are we treating the mind or treating the behavior?), establishing reliable definitions of psychological concepts (e.g., teaching more knowledge of a skill compared to treating a motor response) and agreeing on what to treat, and analyzing an individual's verbal behavior to indicate progress or knowledge. He discusses the idea that there is not the same dedication to awareness, research, and data as compared to Autism and argues that a similar commitment in conducting empirical studies in the areas of psychological and emotional disorders is necessary.

Strong collaboration between behavior analysts and other professionals is necessary to remove the barriers so that there is no longer a divide or question about what is the best treatment for a child. Emotional or psychological conditions do not ever come without behavior and while one could argue that while the child knows that stealing is wrong, the child may still take things in the presence of the desired item that is not theirs. So how does the appropriate treatment continue? Do we teach more knowledge about better morals or have the child practice refraining from taking desired objects in the presence of said objects? Building a precise language and understanding between disciplines, applying behavior analytic terminology to other conditions, and pushing development in observable and measurable criteria to emotional behavior is key in moving the fields together to serve more populations and grow the research.