

INTERVENTION BRIEF

Achieving, Behaving, Caring (ABC) Program

ABC is a school-based early intervention program for children identified as at-risk for emotional disturbance (ED). Parent Liaisons promote collaboration and cooperation between parents and teachers as they work together toward goals to improve student behavior and development.

Major Objectives:

Goals focus on working toward behavioral and/or academic success as defined and agreed upon by both the teacher and parent.



Description of Steps and Activities:

- Recruit Parent Liaisons from the local community
- Parent Liaisons work with parents and teachers to set mutual goals for school year progress
- Liaisons facilitate regular, ongoing communication between parents and teachers and provide targeted support to parents in following through with goal tasks at home

Program Details

| | |
|---|---|
| Target Group | Elementary school students showing emotional and behavioral problems |
| Intervention Site | School |
| Dosage | 6 essential components of parent-teacher teams: 1) Parent-teacher equality 2) The action-research cycle 3) Parent liaison 4) Mutual parent-teacher goals for the child 5) Consistency between home and school, and 6) Planned transitions |
| Resources Required | Space for parents, teachers, and Parent Liaisons to meet |
| Personnel Participation Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Teachers● Parent Liaisons (Number of liaisons needed depends on size of school and number of students at risk of ED) |
| Program Cost | Free! <i>(In the research study, Parent Liaisons were community members who were paid for their roles)</i> |

What's the evidence for it?

After 2 years, researchers found:

- 1) Significant reductions in parent and teacher reports of child internalizing and externalizing problems & delinquent behavior
- 2) Increases in the child's cooperation, self-control, and competence
- 3) Parents felt empowerment in obtaining school-based services for their child

Article Citation:

McConaughy, S. H., Kay, P. J., & Fitzgerald, M. (1999). The Achieving, Behaving, Caring Project for preventing ED: Two-year outcomes. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 4(4), 224-239.

Where to go for further information:

Fitzgerald, McConaughy, & Kay. (1997). Achieving, Behaving, Caring: The ABC's of early intervention.

Retrieve from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED405723.pdf> (Link includes details about the intervention!)