

Discrete Trial Training

WHAT IS IT? DTT involves the following:

- Breaking a skill into smaller parts
- Teaching each part to mastery
- Providing concentrated teaching
- Providing prompting and fading as necessary, and
- Using reinforcement procedures

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



- Most students with ASD do not naturally gain information from their environment, listening to others, or modeling others' behavior.
- The DTT method enables instructors to systematically analyze tasks that student needs to learn, break them down into small, defined steps, and systematically teach them to a student in incremental elements that he can more easily learn.
- Enables different teachers to be consistent in their instruction by clearly writing out the procedures for implementing a discrete trial.

- For any behavior or skill that has a clear beginning and end.
- Academic examples: Picture naming, word recognition and oral reading, addition facts, money selection and counting, time telling and science vocabulary.
- Communication examples: Yes/no responses, question asking, requesting and manual signs.
- Self-help examples: Drinking from a cup and cooking.
- Social Skills: Waiting one's turn, social initiations, and saying "please".
- Leisure Skills: Soccer, basketball, and toy activation using a switch.



WHEN CAN IT BE USED?

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?

1. Identify discrete behavior.
2. Present instruction in a **concise** manner, **consistently** across all instructors, only when student is **attending** and **motivated**, only **once**, and **without** using the student's name.
3. Provide immediate reinforcement for a correct response, and to avoid inadvertent reinforcement of an incorrect response.
4. Use prompts to prevent errors and plan to fade them out when student demonstrates success.
5. Record data on discrete behavior and graph results. This is to monitor progress.



To view a short video, scan here:



REFERENCES

- Alberto, P. A., & Troutman, A. C. (2013). *Applied behavior analysis for teachers* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.
- DeBoer, S. R. (2007). *How to do discrete trial training*. Austin, TX: PROED, Inc.
- Kearney, A. J. (2015). *Understanding applied behavior analysis: An introduction to aba for parents, teachers, and other professionals* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.