

Incidental Teaching Procedures

WHAT IS IT? It is a teaching procedure whereby new behaviors are taught within the context of natural environments, during the course of typical events, at times the behaviors naturally occur.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



- Natural reinforcers are tied directly to the task or desired behavior. For example, after you set the table for snack, you get to eat.
 - Increased likelihood for generalization, increased motivation to learn, and functional relationships between desired behavior and outcomes.
 - IT procedures encourage involvement of parents, peers, and siblings in instructional activities and treatment.
-

- Behaviors and skills taught using IT occur during the natural course of events, that is, when they would occur naturally in an appropriate environment.
 - Examples: A behavior that is classroom related (e.g., math), would be taught in the classroom at the typical time it occurs; a behavior that is home related (e.g., a dinnertime task), would be taught at home in the evening; and behavior that naturally occurs in both environments (e.g., toileting) would be taught in both environments.
 - The instructor may have to embed learning opportunities by rearranging the natural environment. For example, if a goal is teach a child to increase spontaneous speech and verbally request toys, the instructor may place toys out of reach, or in clear plastic tubs for the child to request.
-



WHEN CAN IT BE USED?

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?

1. Choose a target behavior and define it in measurable, observable, and specific terms.
- 2 A. Identify Learning Opportunities: it is important to identify people and a variety of settings to teach the skill. This will increase the likelihood of generalization.
- 2B. Embed Learning Opportunities if none of few exist: If the student is learning to greet others, the instructor could embed opportunities to greet the office staff, school counselor, and the cafeteria staff.
3. Determine what teaching procedure to use.
4. Use natural reinforcers (e.g., praise)
5. Collect data in the natural environment and graph results to assess treatment effectiveness.



To view a short video, scan here
Or [click here](#).



- Charlop-Christy, M. H. (2008). *How to do incidental teaching*. Austin, TX: PRO-ED, 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.