

Natural Environment Teaching (NET)

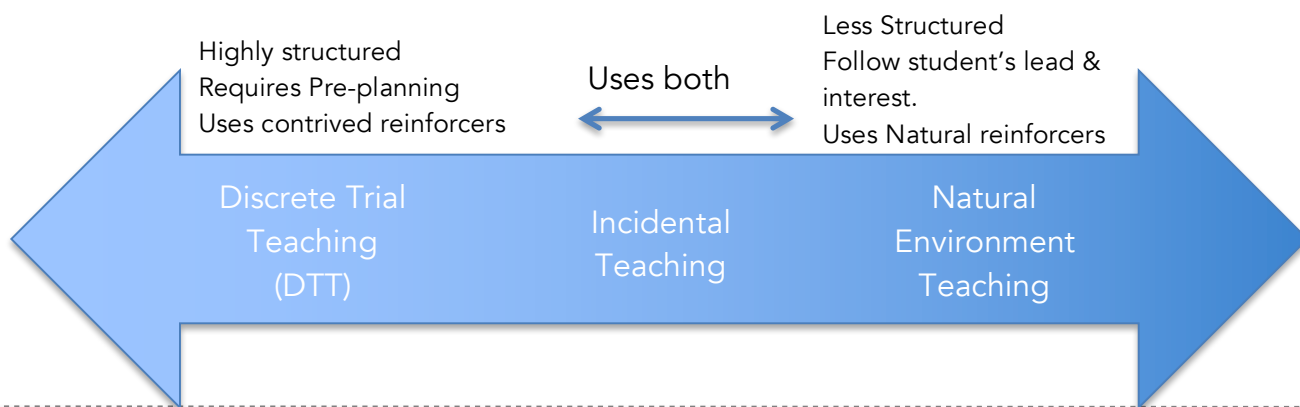
WHAT IS IT? Using applied behavior analysis principles to teach the student within the real world, the natural environment, rather than in the more artificial environment of sitting at a table such as in DTT. It differs from incidental teaching as you pre-plan instruction within the natural environment.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- To generalize skills within the natural environment.
- Skills being taught are portable and can be implemented within the natural environment.
- Uses student's motivation to maintain interest.
- Not dependent on a table or particular set of materials.

- NET is less structured than discrete trial training (DTT), and involves presenting programming targets within more natural contexts, such as during play or typical daily activities. As such, it allows us to focus on generalization of skills.
- Whether to use DTT or NET depends on your individual student's needs, learning style, rate of skill acquisition, and ability to generalize skills from one setting to another.

WHEN CAN IT BE USED?



HOW TO IMPLEMENT?

1. Choose a target behavior and define it in measurable, observable, and specific terms.
2. Schedule when target skill will be used within the natural environment.
3. The curriculum should focus on a student's specific needs and embedded within his/her interests.
4. Characteristics of NET also include capturing motivation through pairing.
5. Use errorless learning to teach.
6. Reinforce correct responses using natural reinforcers whenever possible.
7. Collect probe data prior to teaching session and record what the student can perform correctly and incorrectly. Data collection is not required during the teaching session.
8. Graph probe data to monitor results.

To view a short video, scan here:



REFERENCES

- 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.
- Sundberg, M. L., & Partington, J. W. (1999). The need for both discrete trial and natural environment language training for children with autism. In P. M. Ghezzi, W. L. Williams & J.E. Carr (Eds.) *Autism: Behavior analytic perspectives*. Reno, NV: Context Press.