



June 2024

MTR Newsletter

What is a Dad?



A sturdy, steady hand to hold on to in times of strife and stress. A true friend we can turn to when times are good or bad. One of our greatest gifts and blessings.

This is the man that we call Dad.



Developmental Delay

Delay in development occurs when the child fails to attain developmental milestones as compared to peers from the same population. It is caused by impairment in any of the following distinct domains, such as gross and fine motor, speech and language, cognitive and performance, social, psychological, sexual, and activities of daily living (ADL). It can be isolated (involving a single domain), multiple (involving two or more domains), or global (affecting most developmental areas). In order to avoid long term disability, early detection, and intervention is warranted. This activity reviews the role of the interprofessional team in the comprehensive evaluation of developmental delay using standardized developmental surveillance and screening instruments in addition to lab workup and imaging.

Project Impact

Project ImPACT is recognized as one of the most effective coaching programs for parents of young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related social communication delays. Project ImPACT teaches parents strategies they can use to help their child develop social, communication, imitation, and play skills during daily routines and activities. Project ImPACT is supported by research and based on developmental science and applied behavioral analysis (ABA) principles. It is considered a Manualized Intervention Meeting Criteria by the National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice (NCAEP).

Why is functional communication important?

Functional Communication Training (FCT) is an antecedent intervention, which can be used with all types and levels of communication. An appropriate replacement behaviour would be to functionally communicate needs and wants, which will gain the learner access to the reinforcer.

Once the function of the challenging behaviour is determined, instructors can use a DRA procedure to provide the reinforcer for more socially appropriate behaviour.



What does functional communication look like?

Functional Communication Training can include vocal communication, such as full sentences “Can I have the car toy?”, or even a single word “car”.

It can also include picture and/or text cues that can be exchanged. Think of handing a picture of a car toy to the other person, so they can identify what item is being requested.

Additionally, using high-tech AAC devices can include pressing buttons to say “I want car” on a speech-generating device is also considered FCT.

Sign language, gestures, pointing, and other forms of non-verbal communication can be taught through functional communication training.



Why do learners engage in challenging behaviors

These challenging behaviours can be seen as ‘problems’ for others, but as ‘solutions’ for the learner. These behaviours get their needs met. Hitting others has worked in the past, so hitting others will continue to be used because it works.

Communicating in appropriate ways can be difficult, require a lot of time and effort, or not be in the learner’s current repertoire of skills.

DIRECT SERVICE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JOCELYN SANDOVAL



Jocelyn has demonstrated to be an outstanding team player. She is always happy to support new hires by allowing them to overlap, and showing them effective strategies they can implement. She is flexible with last minute accommodations and has low cancellation rates. In addition, she has a positive attitude every single day! Thank you Jocelyn, we appreciate you!

MEET JOCELYN

Hello my name is Jocelyn and I have been with MTR for almost 2 years. I was born and raised in the Central Coast, in a town called Santa Maria, CA. I am one of two boys in my family of five. I moved to SD in 2017 and have lived here since then. I graduated from UCSD with a Clinical Psychology degree and a minor is Spanish Literature. I have been a therapist for almost 5 years. During my last year in college, I began working for a lab as a recruiter and research assistant with toddlers. I also began working as a therapist with toddlers and teenagers that had ASD and other psychological comorbidities.

Apart from helping others, I enjoy cooking, cleaning, organizing, crafting, dancing, and working out. I enjoy spending time with my family and loved ones. Since my family is out of town, I am constantly traveling to meet up with family and friends outside of SD.

In the near future, I hope to move out of San Diego to live closer to family and continue working in Social Services.

Three fun facts about me are that I love karaoke singing, I occasionally do makeup, dessert and balloon garland decor for people, and I enjoy eating spicy food, fruit, and candy.

MTR ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO
THE TEAM

Sylvia Serrano
Nijessia Cerquerira
Rachael Cintron
Cesar Velazquez



STAFF
MEETING

Wednesday June 12th
@6:30 PM
Via Google Meet



ADMINISTRATIVE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

KATEA NUNEZ



Katea has been nominated as the administrative employee of the month for her outstanding performance assisting families and reaching out to service coordinators in a polite, caring and professional manner. She has been more than happy to learn from the rest of our amazing office administration team. Great job Katea we appreciate you!

MEET KATEA

Hi, my name is Katea! Here is a little bit about me. I have 7 years of administrative experience and I am currently in school to obtain my BA in Business Administration with an emphasis in HR. I hope to pursue employee law once I obtain my BA. When I'm not working, I enjoy reading, working out, and spending time with my partner, friends and family.

I enjoy reading poetry, murder mystery, and of course the classics! Some of my favorite authors are Edgar Allan Poe, Joan Didion, Patti Smith, and Eve Babitz. Some fun facts about me, I have 3 dogs, Duke, Boston, and Picasso.

I love fashion! Clothes, shoes, bags, jewelry, you name it.

I have played soccer all of my life and enjoy pick up games at USD with my friends.

Although I am fairly new to MTR, I have enjoyed working with everyone so much and excited for the future!