



Task Analysis

Topic Summary:

Task analysis is the process of breaking a skill into smaller, more manageable steps in order to teach the skill. As the smaller steps are mastered, the learner becomes increasingly independent in his or her ability to perform the larger skill.

Implementation Checklist:

1. Identify the target skill.
2. Identify the prerequisite skills of the learner and the materials needed to teach the task.
3. Break the skill into parts.
4. Confirm that the task is completely analyzed.
 - a. Have someone follow the steps exactly as written.
5. Determine how the skill will be taught.
 - a. Procedure for chaining the behavior (total task, backwards, or forward chaining)
 - b. Select the appropriate teaching method by matching the method to:
 1. the learner's temperament
 2. the learner's learning style
 3. the history of what has and has not worked for this learner
 4. the learner's IEP/IFSP
 5. the environments within which the learner functions
6. Implement intervention and monitor progress

Recommended Resources:

1. Autism Internet Module on Task Analysis; www.autisminternetmodules.org
2. Alberto, P.A. & Troutman, A.C. (2006). *Applied Behavior Analysis for Teachers (7th ed.)* New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall.
3. Browder, D., Trela, K., & Jimenex, B. (2007). Training teachers to follow a task analysis to engage middle school students with moderate and severe developmental disabilities in grade appropriate literacy. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, 22(4)*, 206-219.