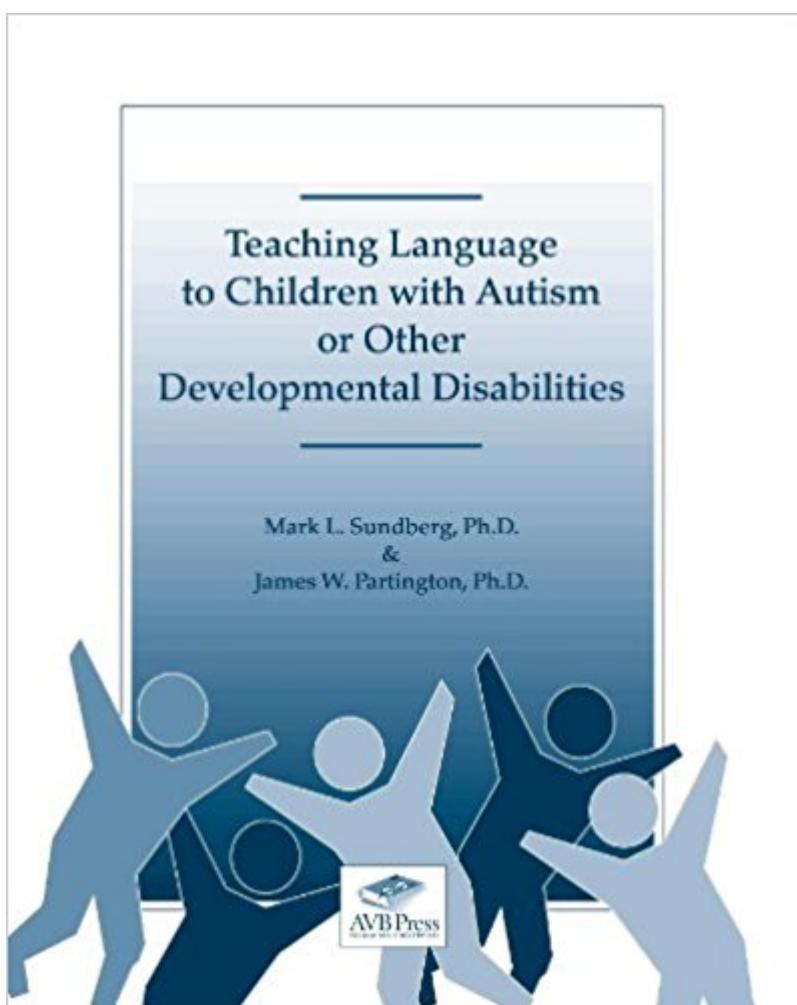


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# Teaching Language To Children With Autism Or Other Developmental Disabilities



## Synopsis

This is the original must have book for professionals and parents implementing a verbal behavior assessment and intervention program for children with autism or other developmental disabilities (often termed the Verbal Behavior Approach). The book provides an easy to understand introduction to Skinner's analysis of language (i.e., mands, tacts, & intraverbals) with easy to follow examples of everyday language skills demonstrated by children. The book contains a brief language assessment system; the Behavioral Language Assessment Form (BLAF) that will give parents and teachers a quick overview of a child's language skills (see the VB-MAPP for a more thorough assessment). The assessment is followed by descriptions on the basic teaching procedures for developing early and intermediate mands, tacts, echoics, imitation, matching-to-sample, receptive language, and intraverbal skills. The use of sign language and other forms of augmentative communication are presented along with suggestions for IEP goals, skill tracking, and data collection. The book also contains a chapter on the need for both structured discrete trial training (DTT) and natural environment training (NET). This is the latest version of the book and has been re-edited (2010), and professionally typeset thus it is 70 pages less than the original version released in 1998. This version (7.2) is exclusively published by AVB Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm writing this review as a parent, not a professional, for the benefit of other parents or non-behavior analysts who are interested in learning more about ABA/verbal behavior. This book is aimed at professionals or at the very least, well read laypeople. Don't read this book until you are

familiar with the basic concepts of applied behavior analysis. The book does define terms such as establishing operation, tact, and mand, but you don't want this to be your introduction to ABA. As well as other introductory texts on ABA, I would recommend reading Mary Lynch Barbera's *The Verbal Behavior Approach* first. This book will not make you (the non professional) a behavior analyst or capable of implementing your child's program yourself. What it does is give you a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of verbal behavior so that you will be able to understand and assist in your child's program. Verbal behavior uses different concepts from traditional language development materials that you may encounter in speech language therapy. Instead of phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, Skinner's VB theory looks at the functions of language--requesting, labeling, echoing, etc. By understanding this classification, you can understand your child's specific strengths and weaknesses more thoroughly. (Do note that the initial assessment presented is at a 2-3 years of age level; it does not accommodate all possibilities.) The major flaw of the book is that it was published in 1998 and I do hope that a revised edition is issued. It is lacking in a few notable respects: for example, the research on AAC is much more developed than is presented here and the study of PECS in particular has been much advanced. Sundberg and Partington are not anti-AAC, but I believe that today they would have more information to provide in implementing it and supporting its use. The language is also an issue. This is obviously a book for professionals and not one to comfort parents, but some of the terminology is no longer used and is opposed by autism advocates, such as using "training" instead of "teaching." The term "compliance training" made me wince, even though the definition is fine (that the first focus of ABA is to get the child to trust the therapist). However, despite the age of the book, it clearly addresses issues which are still a problem today. The authors emphasize the need to tailor the program to the child's needs, to use activities which are highly motivating, and to make strong use of the natural environment as it provides strong reinforcers and enables the child to generalize rather than only be able to use rote speech.

As a Speech-Language Pathologist who is currently working on becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), I believe this is a must read for any and all speech therapists who work in Early Intervention and/or with children with autism. This book provides step-by-step instructions on how to improve verbal speech skills ranging from a child that is nonverbal and aggressive to more complex skills such as requesting missing items. This book provides a different prospective to teaching a child to communicate than many "developmentally focused" speech and language textbooks. By combining my previous knowledge and expertise of speech and language with

specific teaching tips from this text, I believe that I have become a better therapist and my patients have also benefited exponentially.

This books contains info needed to effectively apply verbal behavioral techniques and concepts in supporting children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

Great resource

Just a regular school book nothing exciting.

Just what I needed for my job as a behavior technician!

great book if you are trying to become a psychologist and want to help children with Autism.

This book is very well written and easy to understand...for those of you who work with Autistic children it is a most...For parents it might be a little complex but worth buying... I would also recommend it especially for those who have some type of ABA training, terms like tact, Manding, intraverbals are used in the book, so for an easier read it is better to be familiar with such terminology. If you have attended one of Dr. Sunberg's workshops or Dr. Pattison, this book is an extension of the workshops... I highly recommend it !

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