



PROJECT ACCESS FACT SHEET #33



projectaccess.missouristate.edu
projectaccess@missouristate.edu
866-481-3841

Antecedent Package

Antecedent Package is one of the many interventions listed as effective in the [Missouri Autism Guidelines Initiative \(MAGI\)](#). Antecedent interventions come from the work of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), behavioral psychology, and Positive Behavior Supports (PBS).

Behavior is directly related to the environment. In other words, what is going on around the child makes a difference in his or her behavior. This can happen with the **people** who are around a child, with the **places** the child is working or playing, and with **things** in the environment. Antecedent means what happens before, and changes in what happens before make it more or less likely a behavior will occur. Let's look at some differences made by people, places, or things in the environment.

People:

Susie is supported by a paraprofessional (para) in her third grade classroom. The para has worked with Susie since Kindergarten. When Susie is reading while the para is near, she attempts to "sound-out" words she doesn't know. However, when she has a substitute para, she just stops reading and waits for the substitute para to tell her the word.

Eli sometimes acts out in class, but when the teacher stands close to him, he is less likely to misbehave.

Places:

One of Josie's IEP goals involves completing tasks independently. When she is working in her special education classroom, she can obtain her materials, use them, and put them away. Sometimes, she works in a small room off the school office. When she is there, she needs assistance to complete tasks, as she doesn't know where materials are stored.

Things:

Juan needs lots of reinforcement to help motivate him to complete tasks he doesn't like. The teacher shows him a reinforce (reward) before asking him to complete the task. This makes it more likely Juan will do what is asked.

Mary loves the playground slide. She has learned she has to wait in line to have a turn on the slide. Pictures of her playmates as well as Mary are placed on a strip to show turns. When Mary sees her picture on the "turn-taking" strip, she is more likely to wait in line.

These are just a few examples of antecedent supports. The beauty of this strategy is that it often prevents unwanted behavior from occurring. When the environment is planned to encourage preferred behavior, that behavior is more likely to happen!

© Project ACCESS - 2019 *Project ACCESS is a collaboration among the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State University, and Missouri's public schools.