

# EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORT:

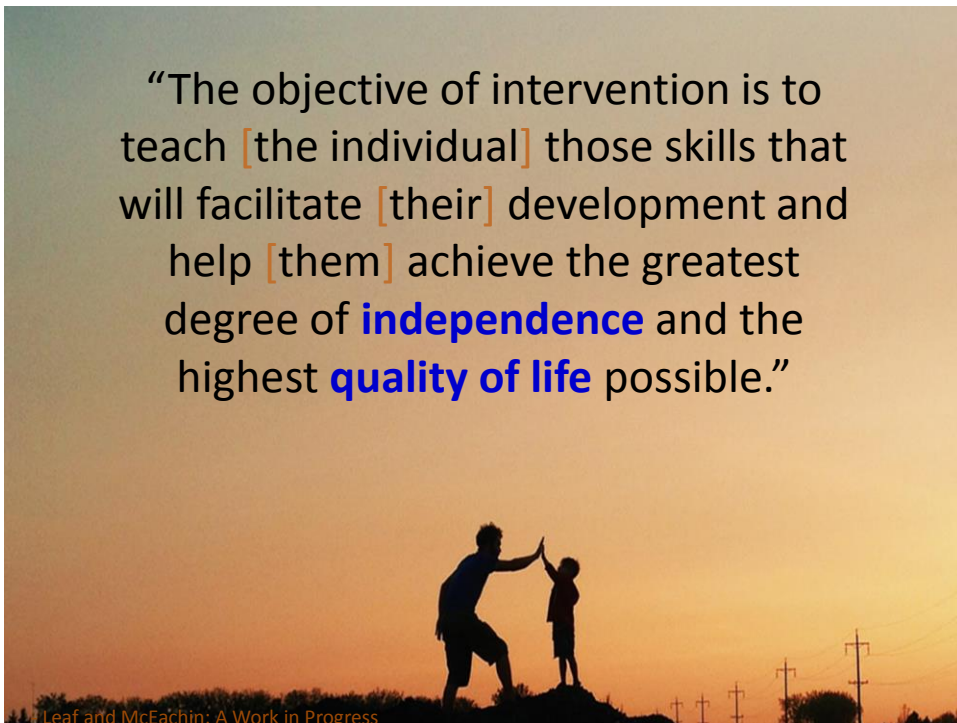
## Lessons Learned for Effective Collaboration

Brendan Boehr, MS, BCBA  
(Board Certified Behaviour Analyst)



St. Amant

“The objective of intervention is to teach [the individual] those skills that will facilitate [their] development and help [them] achieve the greatest degree of **independence** and the highest **quality of life** possible.”



Leaf and McEachin: A Work in Progress

## HOW DO WE MEET THOSE GOALS?

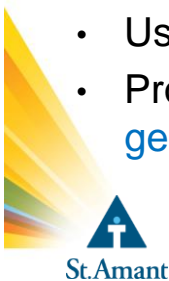
### Use evidence-based strategies:

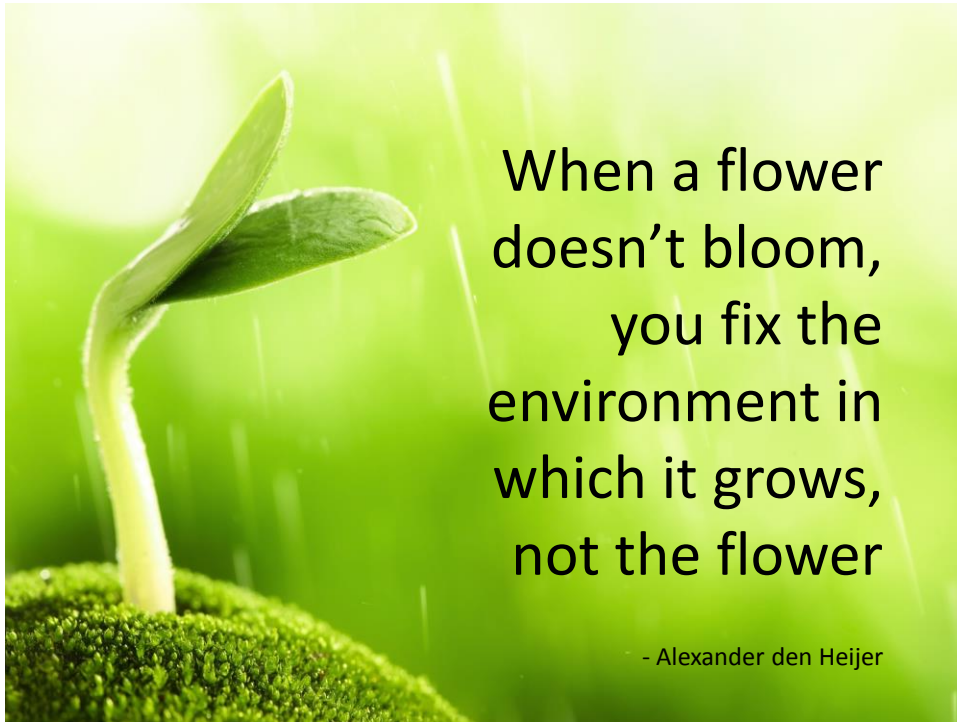
→ Applied Behaviour Analysis  
(ABA)



### QUICK ABA OVERVIEW

- Identify **big-picture goals** (typically learning new skills and/or managing challenging behaviour)
- Break those skills **into small steps**
- Using **ABA strategies** to teach until mastery
- Providing opportunities to **practise and generalize** those skills in the real world





When a flower  
doesn't bloom,  
you fix the  
environment in  
which it grows,  
not the flower

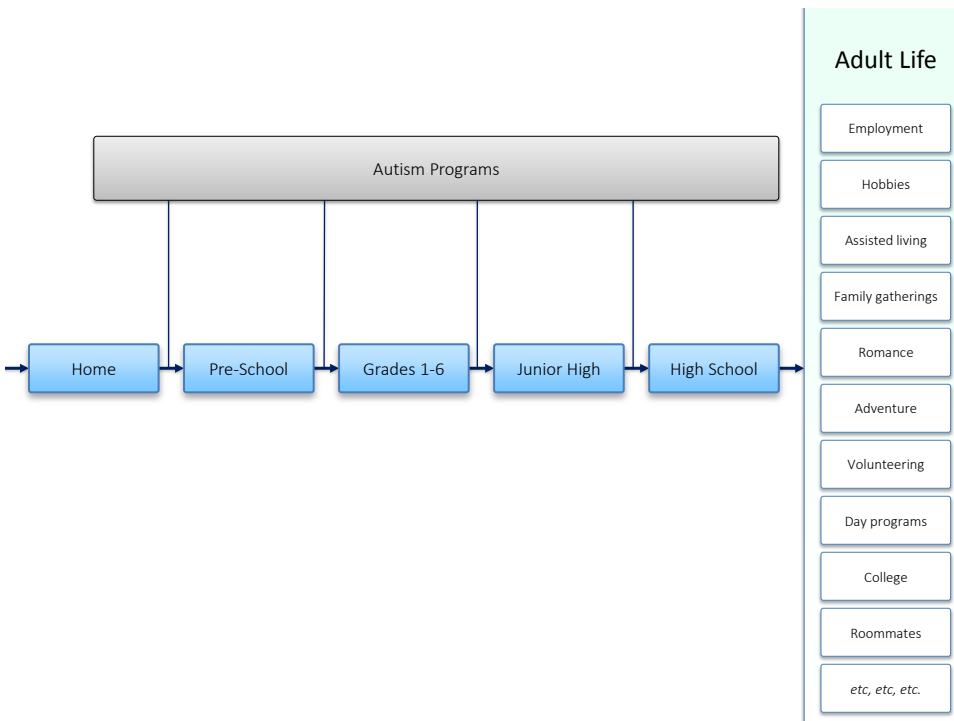
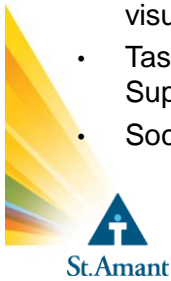
- Alexander den Heijer

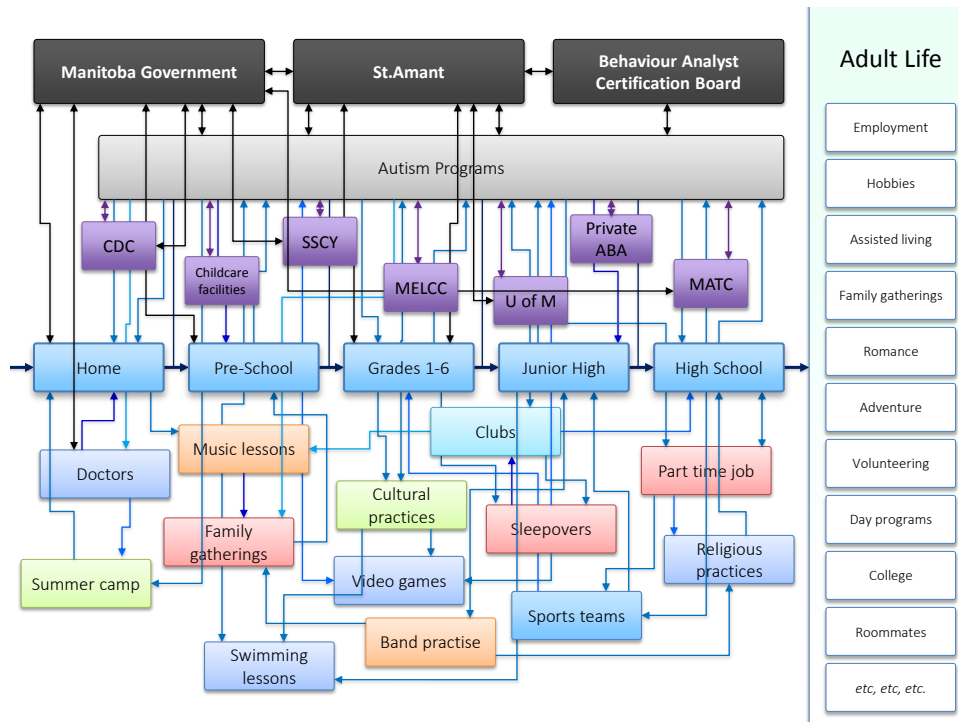
We act in ways that historically led  
to **more of the good stuff**  
and/or **less of the bad**

Under **similar circumstances**, we're  
likely to behave the same way today

## SOME ABA STRATEGIES

- Discrete Trials Teaching
- Incidental Teaching
- Shaping
- Behavioral momentum
- Prompting – physical, visual, verbal, textual
- Task Analysis Visual Supports
- Social Stories
- Self-Management Strategies
- Chaining
- Video Modeling
- Positive Reinforcement (reinforcers & tokens)
- Clear Instructions





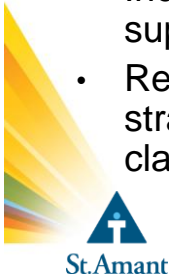
## HOW DO WE MANAGE THAT CHAOS??

- Effective collaboration is essential
- I asked our team of Autism Consultants to share some tips that they've learned over the years
- First, a quick overview of our support models and who we collaborate with



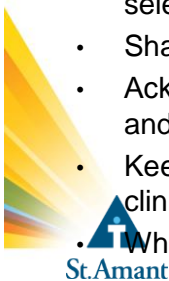
## COLLABORATION TIPS

- Identify a common goal and identifying each parties involvement
- Consulting with them on goals/skills that you would like to target over the next XX months
- Incorporating their strategies that will supplement the treatment plan
- Recommendations for school – perhaps strategies could be useful for all children in class



## COLLABORATION TIPS

- Establish preferred mode of communication, frequency, etc.
- Inviting clinicians to monthly clinic meetings and team overlaps
- Providing potential dates in advance so that they can select the date that works best for them
- Sharing programming updates with them on a regular basis
- Acknowledging the other clinicians' feedback and efforts, and requesting their observation notes
- Keeping communication constant and open with other clinicians
- When faced with a conflict, seek first to understand



## COLLABORATION TIPS

- Use common language
- Avoid using acronyms (FCT, Sd, sR- vs sR+, op defs, PUN, EXT, MOs, etc.)
- Data informed decision making
- Families – coach family on what key questions to ask about alternative treatments

