

**Dear Parents,**

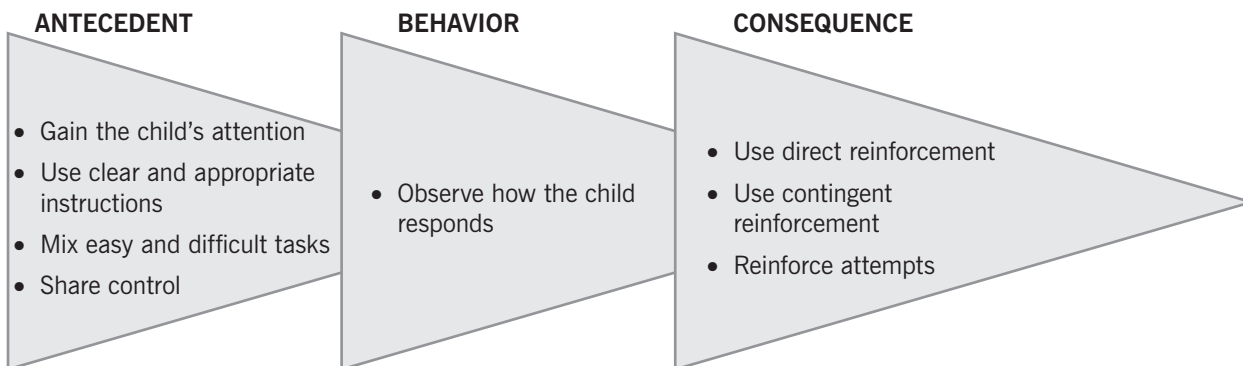
One intervention we use in our classroom is called Classroom Pivotal Response Training, or CPRT. This handout briefly describes CPRT, so that you can be familiar with one way we are addressing your child's communication, play, social, and academic goals. Because CPRT is a naturalistic intervention, it requires no special setting, materials, or set-up. In fact, when CPRT is being implemented, it may be difficult to see the components. It can look just like play, or simply seem like "good teaching." Don't be fooled! CPRT has specific, evidence-based components, which are based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). The structure and components of CPRT are described below.

**ABC:** CPRT is implemented in an Antecedent–Behavior–Consequence (ABC) pattern, similar to other ABA-based interventions. Children with autism often need support to learn from the natural environment. Specifically setting up opportunities to learn and providing rewards for positive behaviors give CPRT interactions structure and help children understand what to do. They can then better learn to use these new skills in many different environments. The diagram below describes the pattern and gives an example:

ANTECEDENT	BEHAVIOR	CONSEQUENCE
SEES A TOY ON A SHELF	POINTS TO THE TOY	IS HANDED THE TOY
What happens before	How the child responds	What happens after

Consequences control how likely your child is to use the same behavior in the future. If a behavior is followed by a desired consequence (receiving a favorite toy), your child is likely to use that behavior again. If a behavior is followed by an undesired consequence (being ignored), your child is likely to use that behavior less in the future.

**Components:** The boxes below show the structure of CPRT and list the specific components:



**Tracking Progress:** Data are collected regularly throughout CPRT implementation to track progress and plan instruction. Data collection is flexible, and information can be gathered at several levels of detail during both individual and group interactions.

If you'd like more information about CPRT, including a description of the components and activity suggestions for implementing CPRT at home, just ask!