



Professional Day

Friday, August 2, 2019

That's Weird. Why Would My Child Act This Way? Trying To Make Sense Out of Behavior.

Tim Hartshorne, PhD, Central Michigan University

Presenter Information

Tim Hartshorne is a professor of psychology, specialized in school psychology, at Central Michigan University. His doctoral degree is from the University of Texas at Austin. He also has a master's degree in counseling and is a licensed professional counselor. He is the grant holder for DeafBlind Central: Michigan's Training and Resource Project, which provides support to children who are deafblind in Michigan. Much of his work is influenced and motivated by his son Jacob, who was born in 1989 with CHARGE syndrome. Tim's particular interests include understanding the challenging behavior exhibited by many individuals with deafblindness, CHARGE, and related syndromes, and also how severe disability impacts the family. He is the lead developer of a deafblind intervener training module on behavior for the National Center on Deaf-Blindness. He has been awarded the Star in CHARGE by the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. His research was recognized in 2009 with the Central Michigan University President's Award for Outstanding Research. He is a frequent presenter on CHARGE and deafblindness.

Presentation Abstract

Before we try to change a behavior, it is a good idea to have some sense as to why the child is engaging in it. Once the purpose of a behavior is recognized, the behavior starts to make sense. Diagnosis has limited explanatory value. Looking for changes in the child's environment, possible sources of pain, anxiety, and the sensory environment may improve our understanding. These issues will be illustrated.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand problems with the diagnosis of autism.
- Participants will be able to consider reasons for peculiar behavior.
- Participants will understand the benefits of viewing behavior as chosen.