

OVERVIEW

Behavioral pediatrics is the application of behavior analysis to behavior problems that present in pediatric medical settings. This area of application is important because up to half of all pediatric medical visits involve behavior problems that could be remediated through behavior-analytic treatment approaches. There are four main domains of concern: 1) routine behavior problems (e.g., bedtime resistance); 2) behavior problems with significant medical dimensions (e.g., encopresis); 3) medical problems with significant behavioral dimensions (e.g., diabetes); and 4) noncompliance with medical regimens. Common behavioral pediatric interventions include: 1) supportive health education (e.g., learning, development, sleep) and 2) prescriptive treatment (e.g., programs for all behavior problems presenting in pediatric settings).

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Initial Publication

Christophersen, E. R. (1982). Incorporating behavioral pediatrics into primary care. *Pediatric Clinics of North America*, 29, 261-295.

Recommended Reading

Allen, K. D., Barone, V. J., & Kuhn, B. R. (1993). A behavioral prescription for promoting applied behavior analysis within pediatrics. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 26, 493-502.

Christophersen, E. R., & Mortweet, S. M. (2013). *Treatments that work with children: Empirically supported strategies for managing childhood problems* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Friman, P. C. (2008). Primary care behavioral pediatrics. In M. Hersen & A. M. Gross (Eds.), *Handbook of clinical psychology. Volume 2: Children and adolescents* (pp. 728-758). New York: Wiley.

Friman, P. C. (2010). Come on in, the water is fine: Achieving mainstream relevance through integration with primary medical care. *The Behavior Analyst*, 33, 19-36.

Friman, P. C., & Piazza, C. C. (2011). Behavioral pediatrics. In W. W. Fisher, C. C. Piazza, & H. S. Roane (Eds.), *Handbook of applied behavior analysis* (pp. 433-450). New York: Guilford.

McGinnis, J. C. (2024). *Introduction to primary care behavioral pediatrics: A guide for behavior analysts*. Routledge. <http://doi.org/10.4324/9781003371281>