

CareLog System for Enhancing Functional Behavioral Assessments

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DESCRIPTION:

To develop and evaluate a tool designed to support the collection of rich data for performing a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) in schools to develop intervention plans for children with special needs and/or severe behavioral problems. The proposed archiving system will permit educators to record only those data or behaviors judged to be important for later retrieval and review. The use of “experience buffers” enabled by the system provides an alternative for recording. This alternative allows educators to get critically needed records without the tedious tasks of manually documenting all of the details and without 100% video recording that is both time-consuming to view en masse and highly invasive. After successfully completing Phase I of this project, we are now planning a study to evaluate the system in a more rigorous manner by applying it to a larger population of children with special needs, engaging 3 centers in the study to demonstrate universality, and quantifying outcomes over a period of approximately one year. In a subset of subjects, we will also compare outcomes and costs of our proposed system with traditional methods of FBA. We will conduct studies to evaluate further the necessary training and background for instructors to use our system appropriately. The commercial potential of our system is high given the large and increasing incidence of children with special needs treated in school environments.