



The VB-MAPP Generative Learning Assessment

Dr. Mark Sundberg

Generative learning occurs when existing verbal and nonverbal skills enable or accelerate the acquisition of other verbal and nonverbal skills, often without direct teaching or reinforcement (Horne & Lowe, 1996; Rosales-Ruiz & Baer, 1997). A typically developing child benefits from many different generative repertoires. These generative repertoires interact with one another and collectively provide the foundation for the acquisition of more complex linguistic abilities (e.g., mands for information, bidirectional naming, joint control, relational framing). However, some children with autism or other intellectual disabilities may fail to benefit from the powerful effects of generative learning. The first step in developing an intervention program for these children is to conduct an assessment of a child's overall verbal skills, and an assessment of a child's current generative learning capabilities. A VB-MAPP supplemental assessment tool that was designed to provide a measure of generative verbal and nonverbal behavior will be described.