

## APPLE CONSULTING & THE FOUR LEVELS OF LEARNING

### OUR EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE: BEYOND "80% CORRECT"

A child who learns and shows proficiency with skills across all levels of learning (acquisition, fluency, maintenance, and generalization) possesses skills that are *more functional in more settings and maintained* for the long term.

### DEFINITIONS OF FOUR LEVELS OF LEARNING

- **ACQUISITION**

- How **accurate** is the student against a criterion?
  - **Examples:** percent correct, number correct

- **FLUENCY:**

- How **quickly** can the student perform the skill against a measurable criterion?
  - **Examples:**
  - **Latency** - When asked a social question, can the student respond within 2-3 sec?
  - **Rate** - *When* answering single-digit addition questions, can the student quickly enough to make double digit addition in the future easier?
  - **Others:** Duration, Inter-Response Time

- **GENERALIZATION:**

- Can the student perform the skill in different **situations, environments, places & people**?
  - **Example:** Can the student respond to social questions with peers, on the playground, with the TV on, with family, at school.
- Can the student use different responses that given the same stimulus (question)?
  - **Example:** When someone asks "how are you?" the student has a repertoire of responses (e.g., "Fine." Well." "Ok." "Not so good." "I'm fine. How are you?")

- **MAINTENANCE**

- Can the student perform the skill **fluently and accurately** after a period of time without direct teaching or practice of the skill?
  - **(Example:** After a few weeks without direct practice of single-digit addition, can the student maintain criterion accuracy and rate?)

### OUR PROTOCOL ON THE FOUR LEVELS OF LEARNING:

Each individualized program has criteria across the four levels of learning. Students **MUST** complete each level of learning (as indicated on program) **BEFORE** the program is complete. We most often start with accuracy, move to fluency (if not embedded in acquisition) and then to maintenance and generalization. ***It is critical to include families, other providers, the school and other environments with which the child interacts.*** The **Maintenance & Generalization Record** and the **Family Target Form** facilitate communication amongst the larger "team" for mastery across maintenance and generalization domains.