

FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT vs. THE NEUROBEHAVIORAL APPROACH

What's Different in Practice:

Behaviorist FBA Approach	Neurobehavioral Approach
Focuses on changing the person's behavior through teaching and reinforcement	Focuses on changing the environment and expectations to reduce stress and support regulation
Seeks to teach a replacement behavior that achieves the same function	Seeks to reduce triggers, lower demands, and support co-regulation
Rewards compliance or desired behavior	Builds felt safety and uses relationship-based supports
Behavior is seen as a choice driven by reinforcement history	Behavior is seen as a symptom of brain-based differences
Goal: eliminate problem behavior	Goal: reduce stress, increase regulation, and support success
Example: Teach a student to ask for help instead of acting out	Example: Modify tasks, shorten demands, preempt frustration, use visual supports