

Which techniques are most effective for getting the paraprofessional to capture accurate data and execute all of the goal components?

A: Making sure all of your goals are clear is one of the most effective methods to ensure that your para is running your targets accurately. On trinote, the BCBA should explicitly indicate the exact behavior that the BT is to document with a plus or minus sign by the thumbs up/down symbols.

For example if the goal is "Client will act out and identify 3 simple emotions: Happy, sad and angry independently.

For each targeted emotion:

Thumbs Up (+):

- 1/ Client identifies the emotion
- 2/ Client makes the correct face/acts it out without needing prompts.

Thumbs Down (-):

Client doesn't identify or act out the emotion independently (needs prompts or is unable to do so).

Example:

Emotion	Tracker
Happy	+ (Identified, - acted out independently)
Sad	- (Needed prompting to identify + act out)
Angry	+ (Identified +acted out independently)

By following the clear format outlined in the example above for each goal, the chances of making errors will be significantly reduced.

B: After the BT has reviewed the completed targets, focus on a few specific targets during each supervision session. Model several trials with the client to demonstrate your expectations for how each target should be executed. Then, using behavior skills training, allow the BT to take a turn running a few trials themselves. This hands-on approach will reinforce their understanding and proficiency. Maintain a relaxed atmosphere during the session, ensuring the behavior technician feels comfortable. Emphasize that you're there to teach a new skill and that making mistakes is totally normal and part of the learning process.

C: Ensuring Accurate Data Collection

Once the BT is comfortable running the new target, consider implementing Interobserver Agreement (IOA) to assess data accuracy. Run several trials together — both you and the BT should independently record data. Then, compare your results to check for alignment.

If any discrepancies arise, discuss why each response may have been scored differently. This opens the door for a valuable learning conversation and ensures clarity moving forward.

Continue to monitor the BT's data in the following weeks. If the data looks inconsistent, shows a downward trend, or seems too good to be true (like 100% accuracy on a new skill), it's worth a closer look.

That could mean:

The target is being run incorrectly

Only one trial was recorded

The client may have received prompting without it being noted

In these cases, have the BT demonstrate the target again during supervision. It's not about calling out mistakes — it's about ensuring fidelity, building confidence, and supporting the BT's growth in delivering effective, ethical treatment.

Have a question?

Need aba clarification on something?

Fill out the anonymous survey in the body of this email. For more resources, check out our BCBA library or reach out for more support.



