

- My name is Dr. Connie Taylor (spell). I have taught Psychology and Behavior Analysis at Midland University for the past 24 years. I have a Ph.D. in Psychology from Florida State University. I am also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst at the Doctoral level.
- I developed a minor in Applied Behavior Analysis in 2007 and in 2021 this was expanded into a major. The Association for Behavior Analysis International reviewed our courses and designated them as a Verified Course Sequence. Currently, most of my students complete their internships at the Munroe-Meyer Institute working with children with feeding disorders, severe behaviors, or in early intervention with individuals on the autism spectrum.
- Many of my students in the ABA track have gone on to work in the field or to graduate school in behavior analysis. Many have become Board Certified Behavior Analysts and work in Nebraska.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to talk about other kinds of work people with training in behavior analysis do besides working with children on the autism spectrum.
- When I was in graduate school, I had the opportunity to work directly with children who exhibited significant behavioral challenges in school settings that threatened their ability to remain in a regular classroom. With my training in behavior analysis and with supervision, I also had the opportunity to work with several children diagnosed with selective mutism and phobias.
- Selective Mutism is a disorder where a child can speak but does not in certain settings. This is usually displayed when they enter school. During my time in Florida, I had successful outcomes with several children with this diagnosis. In one case, the teacher and several staff had tried to get one little girl to speak at school for over a year. By understanding the function of the behavior, I used behavioral principles during weekly sessions. Over the course of several months, she initially began talking to me and eventually went on to talk freely in the classroom setting.

- Elevator phobias in children are relatively rare; however, I had the chance to work with two children who were diagnosed with this disorder. Again, understanding the function of the behavior (which was different for each child), I used behavioral procedures to successfully treat the phobias allowing the child and their families to participate more fully in everyday activities.
- I feel licensure for Behavior Analysts is imperative. I get calls almost every week from providers of autism services coming into Nebraska wanting to know if I have graduates from my program who are looking for work, or if they need an internship placement. Without the additional safeguards that licensure provides, individuals can provide services without appropriate training and supervision. It is troubling that this could happen to individuals who are very vulnerable. Licensure would provide an important layer of protection for these individuals as well as anyone receiving behavior analytic services.

Dr. Connie Taylor