



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

Palm Beach County  
Youth Services Department  
Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division  
Education & Training Center



# **Behavior is Communication: Basic Behavioral Principles for Approaching Challenging Behavior in Youth with Empathy and Science**

**Presented by Marcela Galicia, PhD, NCSP**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

**\*Location: Zoom Remote Video Conference \***

Once registration is confirmed, link to access the training will be provided

**Registration Fee:**

There is no cost associated with this presentation

**Continuing Education:**  
2 CE credits will be offered

**Registration Link:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXMYVRZ>**

*If you have trouble accessing the survey, please copy the link and paste it directly into your browser.*

**Registration closes at 3:00 pm on February 17, 2026**

In order to receive a certificate you must be present for the entire training. Zoom monitors attendance from the time each participant logs in and out of the training. Exceptions will not be granted.

## Description:

This presentation will provide a general overview and introduction to the behavioral science principles at work in challenging behaviors of children and adolescents (e.g., tantrums, elopement, aggression, etc.). Topics that will be covered include functions of behavior, role of assessment in positive behavior supports/interventions, and best practices in adult-child interactions.

## Learning Objectives:

1. List two or more functions of behavior
2. Describe the relationship between reinforcement and future probability of a behavior
3. Identify at least one evidence-based antecedent strategy and one evidence-based consequence to promote positive behavior in youth

## Presenter:



**Marcela A. Galicia, Ph.D., NCSP** is a licensed psychologist who specializes in behavioral pediatric psychology supporting typically developing and neurodiverse children, including children with autism, ADHD, language delays and intellectual disabilities. She provides therapy and behavioral parent training in English and Spanish. Dr. Galicia received her doctoral degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She completed her doctoral internship in clinical and pediatric psychology at the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development and did a postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University/Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland.

Dr. Galicia has specialty training in positive behavioral supports, as well as decreasing anxiety and mild-to-moderate externalizing behavior concerns, including temper tantrums, non-compliance, elopement, toileting difficulties, physical aggression, and sleep difficulties.

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**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this program is based on methodological, theoretical, research, or practice knowledge base. The program is based on information from professional resources. Limitations of the content being taught are acknowledged, recognizing that there are additional resources available not referred to in this program. There is no commercial support for this program.

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**Continuing Education Information:**

Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County is also approved to provide continuing education to LCSW's, LMFT's, and LMHC's by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling (Provider # 50-533, expires March 31, 2027).

In order to receive Continuing Education credits, you must complete an electronic form at the conclusion of the training verifying your name and professional license number. Certificates will be emailed once your information has been confirmed.

**All mental health professionals will receive two (2) continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.**

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**Space is Limited:** Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first 200 registrants will be able to access the training link.

**What to Bring:** A pen and paper for taking notes. You may wish to use your personal headsets/earbuds for enhanced audio quality.

**Accommodations for the differently abled:** Individuals needing special accommodations, please contact [Cristal Montepeque](#) at (561) 233-4460.

**Registration contact person:** Cristal Montepeque at (561) 233-4460 or [CMontepeque@pbcgov.org](mailto:CMontepeque@pbcgov.org)

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[www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter](http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter)

or call (561) 233-4460