

Ted Carr was a pioneer and leader in the field of Positive Behavior Support. It is with great sadness that I learned of his death this past weekend.

I first became aware of Ted through his writing in “Evolution of an Applied Science”, and later as a speaker, practitioner, and colleague. His dedication to making clear the importance of considering the needs of the person, the influence of the environment on behavior, and the expansion of scientific approaches to real world applications made him not only a visionary, but a true changer of lives.

When such a bright light is taken from the world, it is important to reflect, absorb, and make brighter our own light.

In searching for information to include in this memorial of Ted Carr, I came across a string of quotes from “Critical Features in PBS” presented in 2003. I think these summarize some of his views and thinking in the field.

“Problem behavior usually serves a purpose for the person displaying it”

“The goal of intervention is education not simply behavior reduction.”

“Remediate deficient environments.”

“Generally, problem behavior tells you what's wrong with the environment, not what's wrong with the child”

“The necessity for an individualized, multicomponent approach (such as) positive behavior support is ultimately about prevention, not crisis management.”

It pains all of us to lose such a wise man in the peak of his work and time. I pray that we unite further in his vision and move forward on behalf of all to whom his work was dedicated: the developers, practitioners, families, and individuals whose lives are changed by Positive Behavior Support.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Moore, Ed.D.
Practitioner, Teacher, and Receiver of PBS