

ABA-Based Interventions: From PA to Prague

Amiris Dipuglia
National Autism Conference 2017
Around the World Panel

Czech Republic

- Population:
Approximately 10.5 million
- Czech language: 9 different dialects
- Commonly known foreign languages:
German, English and Russian
- No Prevalence information available for ASD



Getting Behavior Analysis to the Czech Republic

- Two mothers...One mission
- "It all started with an email"- April 2015: Jana contacts Prof. Karola Dillenburger, BCBA-D
- With significant contributions from her husband, Prof. Mickey Keenan, advice poured in
- Jana connected with Milena during a parliamentary seminar who immediately offered her support



Jana Gandalovičová Milena Němcová



Mickey Keenan & Karola Dillenburger

Solving the Urgent Need for Approved Local Training

- Connected with Prof. Karel Pančocha – Vice-Dean of Faculty of Education, Masaryk University in Brno
- Planning began for a conference to raise awareness of ABA



Karel Pančocha

First ABA Conference! October, 2015

- Over 400 parents and professionals



Czech Society for ABA



- Founded November 20th, 2015
- Goals:
 - Guarantee high quality ABA-Based interventions supervised by board certified behavior analysts
 - Establish certified education and training in ABA
 - Create new non-medical allied health profession- Certified Behavior Analyst
- Board Chair: David Kasal, MD – Pediatrician and parliament member
- Honorary Members: Profs. Keenan and Dillenburger
- Honorary Advisor: Dr. Neil Martin – Director of International Development for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board
- Affiliation with Czech Medical Society of Purkyně

First Major Event: February 2016



- Hearing/seminar at the Czech Parliament in Prague called *Out of the Trap of Autism with ABA*
- Participants:
 - Profs. Dillenburger and Keenan
 - Zuzana Mastenova, BCBA
 - Dr. Neil Martin
 - Prof. Lori Unumb, Director of State Government Affairs for Autism Speaks
- Attended by over 120 politicians, professionals, and parents

Other Significant Accomplishments:



- In collaboration with Prof. Pančocha:
 - Funding secured from Ministry of Education to train 15 students at Queen's University of Belfast (or other international approved course sequences)
 - Established Czech BCBA approved course sequence at Masaryk University in Brno, under leadership of Prof. Keenan: First cohort in fall of 2017
 - RBT courses at Masaryk University taught currently by Zuzana Mastenova, BCBA

Certifications in Czech Republic

- Two BCBAs:
 - Dita Chapman (March 2017)
 - Katerina Chrapkova (Recent)
- Registered Behavior Technician course: Coordinated by Lenka Žáková
 - 36 students Fall of 2016
 - 37 students spring of 2017
 - Approximately 55 students expected fall of 2017
 - Approximately 10 RBTs in Czech Republic

Other Significant Accomplishments:



- Introduction of postgraduate study of applied behavioral analysis at Masaryk University, Faculty of Education
- For use in schools working with children with autism spectrum disorders
- Scholarship provided to nine students
- Students must obtain language certificate prior to enrolling
- Project covers cost of supervision
- Students are also supported by the project in their supervised praxis- matches the students with families and finds supervising BCBA (currently 4 families)

One Family Changed and More to come

- 7 year old boy with autism
- Each family receives 6-8 hours/week in addition to parent training
- Parents commit to working 2 hours/day

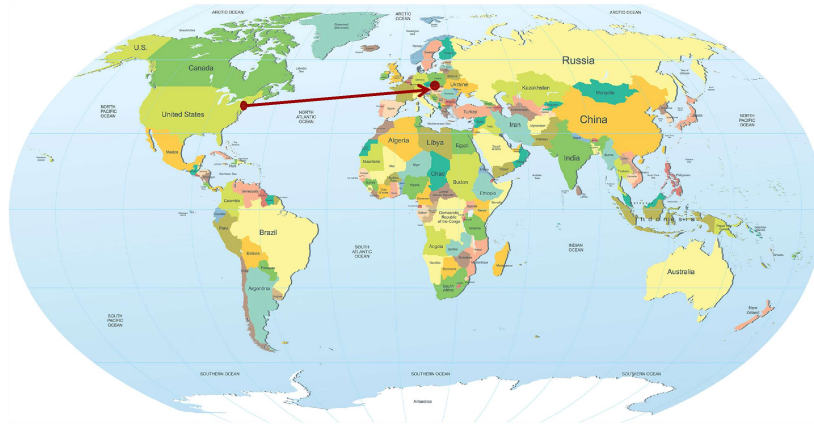


Other Significant Accomplishments:



- First country in Europe to pass a law establishing behavior analyst as a new non-medical health profession
- Law passed the Senate at the end of June, 2017

From PA to Prague



July 2016: “What do you think about PaTTAN?”

- Attended workshop held by Dr. Vince Carbone in Bratislava, Slovak Republic
- Recognized Mike Miklos from a photo...
- Answer to the question: “It’s just perfect”
- Dr. Carbone contacted Mike Miklos and “I have never received such nice emails, ever – Mike’s are the best!”

March 2017

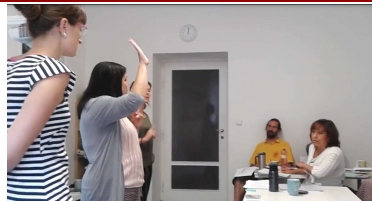
- Dita Chapman attended PaTTAN Autism Initiative Intensive Skills Training in ABA (Condensed to two days due to storm)
- Attended two day workshop: Advanced Consultation Skills when Addressing School Based Needs of Students with Autism Dr. Vince Carbone
- Additional training and practice sessions with Miklos and Dipuglia
- Visits to classrooms

Visit to Exton Elementary, West Chester SD

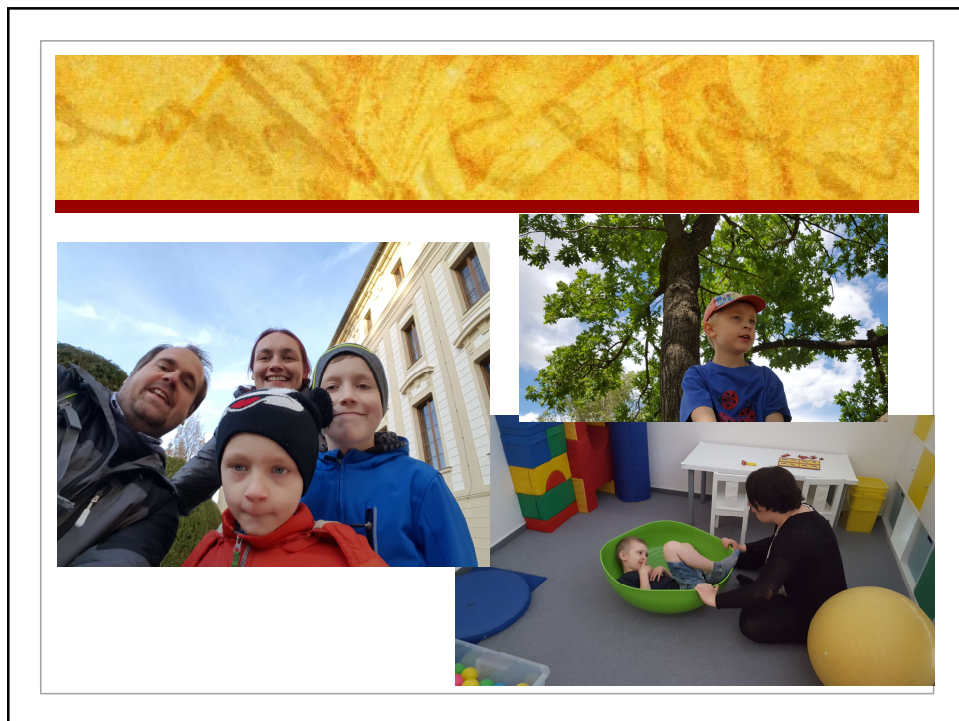
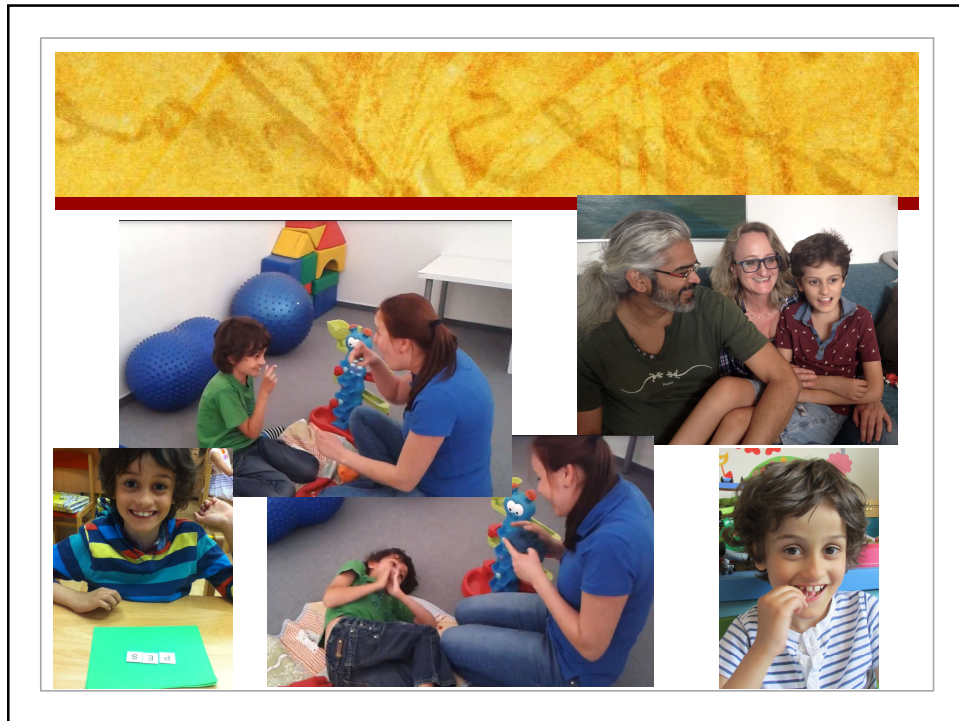


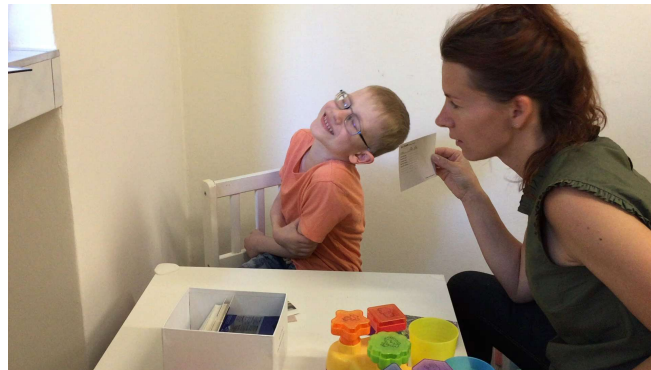
June 2017

- Modified Intensive Skills Training in ABA-two days
 - Assistance and translation- Dita Chapman with support from Masaryk University attendees (Profs. Karel Pančocha and Helena Vad'urová)
 - Other Attendees:
 - Classroom staff: teacher and assistants
 - Clinic Manager: Katrin Telin
 - Foundation/RBT: Jana Rehakova
 - Kindergarten teacher from Chrudim: Petra Filipiová
 - Met with 4 students and their parents, observed sessions and provided feedback









First Classroom Using ABA-Based Interventions: August 2017



Jan Korda: Principal

Základní škola a mateřská škola Lyčkovo náměstí

October 2017:

- “Using the Potential of Applied Behavior Analysis in Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders” – PaTTAN Autism Initiative, The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
- Co-organized by Czech Ministry of Education, Czech Society for Applied Behavior Analysis, and Faculty of Education of the Charles’ University of Prague

Charles University

- Founded in 1348
- Conference will be attended by approximately 200 professionals, policy makers, students and parents





- It all started with an email!