

## Applying RFT in Early Childhood: Course Overview

Have you been dipping your toes in the RFT water, and are now ready to dive in? Perhaps you've taken some workshops, read a book or two, and tried out some protocols, but you're looking for more guidance—or you just want the chance to ask all your geekiest most technical questions. If you aren't sure how to integrate RFT with your existing programming (including programming based on Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior), particularly early in language development, or you struggle to apply RFT to your programming in ways that go beyond following a set curriculum, this course is for you. Dr. Siri Ming has been there and done that—based on decades of clinical practice, her own research, and the growing literature base in applying RFT, in this workshop she presents a powerful, developmentally aligned framework for approaching programming from a truly functional perspective. Join her to thoroughly explore theoretical concepts related to RFT in EIBI—that is, RFT and early language development—along with specific case-conceptualization tools, assessment and intervention protocols.

**Please note:** while a thorough overview of RFT will be provided, this is not a beginner's introduction (see Siri's other workshop, *Introduction to RFT in EIBI* for that); you will get the most out of this course if you already have some training and reading under your belt before starting.

### What You'll Do

As a course through our Constellations community, the *Applying RFT in Early Childhood* has been created to serve three functions, with activities carefully designed for you to:

**Learn:** Every week, Siri presents educational and informational content to you through a variety of short video presentations and readings to teach you the conceptual core of that week's topic. Extra bonus content in the form of curated articles, podcasts, blogs or videos, gives you the opportunity to take a deeper dive into the technical aspects of each topic as your time and interest dictate. You'll have unlimited access to all materials to return to as needed after the workshop.

**Apply:** Practical and experiential exercises will have you immediately putting the concepts to work for you in your own professional and personal practice.

**Connect:** The workshop is designed to create community, and to foster connections that spark new ideas and forge new relationships. Siri facilitates asynchronous discussions, and live bi-weekly group meetings will bring you together with the group to share with, learn from, and be accountable to one another. You will also have access to a trial membership in our larger community of practice, where you can carry the momentum from the workshop forward.

## **What to Expect**

The workshop is divided into five modules, each of which will take two weeks to complete. In every module, you'll see five-six sequential lessons to complete that consist of short videos, readings, and asynchronous discussion activities; you should anticipate spending about 15-20 minutes per lesson on these instructional activities (i.e., about an hour and a half per module). Each module also has a variety of application activities that you should expect to spend more time on, with your clients or in your organization, such as developing your case review process, assessing clients, trying out teaching protocols, and so on.

Every other week we will have a live group meeting in which we will discuss the concepts of the module, and group members can ask questions about implementing protocols, including assessment, and intervention issues. We will also have a brief introduction meeting on the first day of the course, just for everyone to put faces to names and get oriented to the platform. We strongly encourage you to join us for every meeting (and you should not sign up for this round if you know you won't be able to make the majority of them), but we understand that sometimes life throws curve balls, and if you can't make a session, they will be recorded and shared inside the course. You will need to attend (or watch) the sessions for CEU codes and complete a CEU quiz to receive a CEU certificate at the end of the course (please note— we cannot give out partial CEUs. You'll need to complete all 5 modules and attend or view all 5 meetings to receive 12 CEUs).

### **Module One—Getting Oriented: Case Conceptualization in EIBI**

- Getting started
- RFT Review: Basic principles
- RFT Review: Typical development and relational framing repertoires
- RFT Review: General sequence of relational training programs
- Psychological flexibility in EIBI programs: Defining psychological flexibility
- Case conceptualization tools

### **Module Two—Early Learners: Foundations and assessing for early DRR**

- Early learner skills
- Early language skills
- Generative processes
- Assessing, training and capitalizing on coordination/equivalence
- Psychological flexibility in EIBI programs: Foundations for self-ing
- Case conceptualization and goal-setting

### **Module Three—Same/Different: An exemplar of curricular sequencing**

- RFT Review: Non-arbitrary vs arbitrary relational responding
- Non-arbitrary same/different relations
- Arbitrary same/different relations
- Psychological flexibility in EIBI programs: Foundations of psychological flexibility

- Case conceptualization and goal-setting

#### **Module Four—Early Relations: Comparison, opposite, spatial & temporal relations**

- Comparison relations
- Opposite relations
- Spatial relations
- Temporal relations
- Case conceptualization and goal-setting

#### **Module Five—Increasing Complexity: Deictics, analogy/metaphor, and rules**

- Deictics
- Analogy and metaphor
- Rules
- Psychological flexibility in EIBI programs: Promoting psychological flexibility
- Case conceptualization and goal-setting

***Here are our learning objectives:***

#### **Experiential Objectives**

1. Assess and teach relational responding repertoires with respect to (a) coordination (equivalence), (b) difference, (c) comparison, (d) opposite, (e) spatial, (f) temporal relations, and (g) deictics.
2. Include an analysis of relational responding repertoires as well as other generative processes and potential deficits when (a) presenting and (b) giving feedback on cases.
3. Develop or refine a case conceptualization/case review process for your practice that (a) integrates RFT and (b) integrates a consideration of psychological flexibility.

#### **Technical/Educational Objectives**

1. Define and describe the function/purpose of case conceptualization within ABA.
2. Define and give examples of generative processes including stimulus generalization, response induction, recombinative generalization, exclusion, observational learning, and relational framing.
3. Define and give examples of the properties of relational framing with respect to (a) coordination (equivalence), (b) difference, (c) comparison, (d) opposite, (e) spatial, (f) temporal relations, and (g) deictics.
4. Define and give examples of analogy and metaphor as relations between relations.
5. Define and give examples of rule-governed behavior.
6. Define and describe the dimensions of relational framing and their relation to psychological flexibility.

## **You're a Part of Something Bigger**

By joining the RFT in EIBI Coaching Group, you also have access to the Constellations *Community of Practice*, our overarching community group and network, including an RFT in EIBI community group, made up of experienced practitioners who are working on applications and research.

## **Workshop Cost**

**All of the workshops and coaching groups in Constellations have three price point options, reflecting our commitment to making our work accessible to a diverse, global membership. Paying at the top price point helps to support our lower price point options and fund our scholarships. Sign up at [www.weareconstellations.com](http://www.weareconstellations.com)**

### **Consider paying less if you:**

- live in a country with a lower per capita income (e.g., Region C or D in the [ABAI membership categories](#), Tier 3 in the [ACBS registration categories](#))
- are supporting children or have other dependents
- have significant debt or medical expenses not covered by insurance
- receive public assistance, are unemployed, or are a full-time student

### **Consider paying more if you:**

- live in a country with a higher per capita income (e.g., Region A in the [ABAI membership categories](#), Tier 1 in the [ACBS registration categories](#))
- own the home you live in, have investments, retirement accounts, or inherited money
- travel recreationally
- have access to family money and resources in times of need
- work part-time by choice
- have a relatively high degree of earning power due to level of education (or gender and racial privilege, class background, etc.). Even if you are not currently exercising your earning power, we ask you to recognize this as a choice.

### **The price points for the RFT in EIBI Coaching group are:**

- **Standard: \$400**
- **Sponsorship: \$500**
- **Global accessibility/full time students: \$300**

**We also have low-cost pay-what-you-can scholarships available. Priority will be given to those who primarily serve underserved, disadvantaged and minority populations, clinicians who are members of minority groups themselves, and to early career practitioners or students in developing countries. Please apply here: <https://a0h6574bpcu.typeform.com/scholarship>**