

## ABA and the elderly

One of the less well-known areas of ABA is behavioural gerontology - the application of ABA to solving the problems of older adults. Behavioural gerontologists may work with older adults who are in distress, who are struggling with apathy and disengagement, and to prevent skill loss that is often associated with cognitive decline and dementia progression. Sadly, of the over 48,000 BCBAAs across the globe, fewer than 0.2% report that they work with adults over 65. In the UK, we have a small but growing number of behaviour analysts who are interested in behavioural gerontology, and with an ageing population, there's no time like the present for the benefits of ABA to be expanded into older adult services.

Dr Zoe Lucock BCBA-D and Emma Williams BCBA have recently launched the UK's first BCBA-led behavioural gerontology service provision for older adults. They specialise in providing bespoke behavioural interventions to older adults with dementia and training their carers in how to best support them. They also provide on-demand BCBA CEUs for behaviour analysts who are interested in learning more about behavioural gerontology and supervision for those wanting to work with older adults. As has been the case with ABA service provision for children with autism, PACT services are currently funded primarily by private clients. However, Zoe and Emma are working with social care providers with the view to begin trials of their service with state funding. Their long-term goal is for behaviour-analytic provision to be available to all older adults across the UK who need it through the national health and social care systems.

You can learn more about PACT [here](#) or see their Facebook page [here](#)