WHY IS THIS BEHAVIOR HAPPENING?



THAT WILL SHAPE THE WAY YOU VIEW BEHAVIOR FOREVER

A CHECKLIST



This is a checklist that contains behavior support questions to ask yourself or to ask a team when attempting to find the function of a student's challenging behavior. When you are addressing behaviors, it is important to determine the root cause or function of a behavior in order to provide a solution that is specific to that cause. This resource also has several checklist items (in question form) to help you think about various solutions that could possibly begin a course of action for a behavior support plan.

What 's Included:

4 Questions that will shape the way you view behavior forever.

How to Use This:

Use this with your team to have those critical discussions about behavior support. Choose one behavior at a time to think about while filling out the form. Ask the questions related to that one behavior. When you are done, look for patterns to see if one of the questions has more "yes" answers than "no." Use that information to have a discussion with your team about the behavior.

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Disclaimer:

No treatment methods are being suggested. These are only questions to ask yourself or your team. Please consult your administrators, specialists, or school psychologist for treatments for your specific students. This is meant to be a supplemental, informal measure to be used in addition to collaboration with your behavior support personnel, your classroom observation and detailed data monitoring of the student's behavior.



General Questions



Does	the behavior present itself in isolation?	YES	NO
Does	the behavior occur in conjunction with other behaviors?		
Have	you identified a target behavior to address?		
Does	the behavior occur more than 10 times a day?		
	Have You Tried?		
	A structured learning environment with consistent routines?		
	Pre-made and prepared activities with all materials ready?		
	Proximity control (staying close by)?		
	Clear expectations expressed visually?		
	Individual, visual student schedules?		
	Various movement opportunities throughout the day?		
	Offering a less favored activity first, then a favored activity?		
	Providing highly motivating activities to help the student throactivity?	ugh a diffi	cult
	Removing problem items before the student enters the room (exbottles)?	. Soda can	s,water
	Being aware of sensory issues in the environment and a respect sensory input may be causing a problem or may be painful to th	•	
	Decreasing difficult tasks by decreasing in numbers, time, or r	equiremen	nts?
	Providing access to highly preferred items for positive behavior	r?	
	Providing a communication system for students to express want	s and disli	kes?

The 4 Questions



		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Would t	the person do this when other people are out of the room?		
Do they appear to be attempting to avoid a specific type of sensory input?			
Does the person do this because they need sensory input?			
Does the person appear to be enjoying the behavior and not aware of others around them?			
	Have You Tried?		
	Talking with an Occupational There	apist?	
	Providing appropriate sensory input the student appears to need it?	t befo	re
	Providing sensory input on a regul	ar bas	is?
	Providing an alternate behavior that may give the student the same type of sensory input?		

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Does attention (words, eye contact, body language) reliably or usually follow the behavior?		
Does the person look at or approach a caregiver before engaging in the behavior?		
Does the person smile just before engaging in the behavior? Does the person get attention from peers for the behavior?		
Have You Tried?		
Avoiding verbal attention for inappose behavior (no eye contact, no verbal comments, neutral body language) still blocking dangerous behaviors?	while	te.
Assisting the student into a safe si without verbal comments?	tuation	J
Providing an over abundance of attended a scheduled basis for appropriate be		
Providing reinforcement for appropriate behavior?	riate	



Is it Escape or Avoidance Based?

		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Doestl	ne person show the behavior when a task is presented?		
Does tl	Does the person show the behavior when a new activity begins?		
Does the person show the behavior when a something they view as aversive is presented?			
Does the behavior end when the person is allowed to leave the activity?			
	Have You Tried?		
	Providing a scheduled "escape" or he the student engages in the behavior		oefore
	Decreasing the difficulty of the act gradually increasing the difficulty?	_	then
	Teaching the student to request a bappropriately?	reak	
	Increasing the fun or reinforcing as the activity?	spects	of
	Using a token economy system?		



	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Does the person's behavior end when given the item or activity?		
Does the person ask for the item?		
Does the person's behavior occur after it is clear that they can have the item?	ot	
Does the behavior occur when the item is not presented fast eno	ugh?	
Have You Tried?		
Teaching an appropriate, functions ask for the item or activity?	al way to)
Providing a visual communication for the student to use to make req	_	
Teaching the student to "wait" using card, a timer, or a first-then board	_	t.
Using visual supports to show when she will get the item or activity?	n he or	
Using a visual system to show that is no longer available?		m



Bonus



5 Strategies for Trying to Prevent Behaviors Before They Start

1.

Conduct a preference assessment to identify items or activities that the student prefers or would work towards earning. Use those items and a visual support of the preferred item or activity to show students what they are working for.

2.

Provide short, concrete, specific statements regarding the behavior that you expect (for example, "sit in the chair") as opposed to a longer explanation <u>and</u> then also provide a visual support to show the expectation.

3.

Use a visual schedule (individualized for the student) to help him/her understand where to go and what to do.

4.

Have all lesson materials prepped and ready to go before the students arrive.

5.

Create a structured learning environment with visual supports, predictable routines, structured activities, and clear classroom procedures.