

UNDERSTANDING

challenging behavior

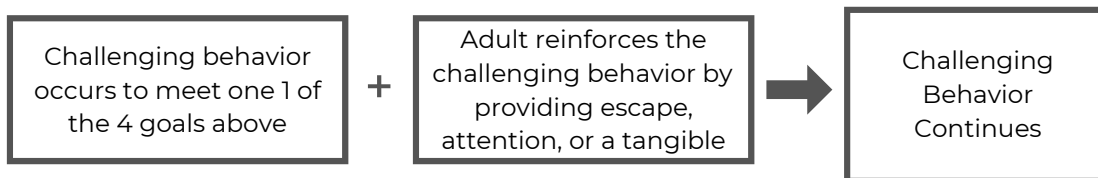
WHAT ARE CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS?

Includes whining, tantrums, hitting, biting, throwing toys, etc.
Children sometimes use behaviors as a way to communicate.

WHY DO CHILDREN ENGAGE IN CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS?

The four main functions or purposes of behavior are:

- Sensory: It feels good or decreases pain
- Escape: To get out of an activity or avoid demands
- Attention: To gain the attention of an adult or peer
- Tangible: To gain access to items or activities

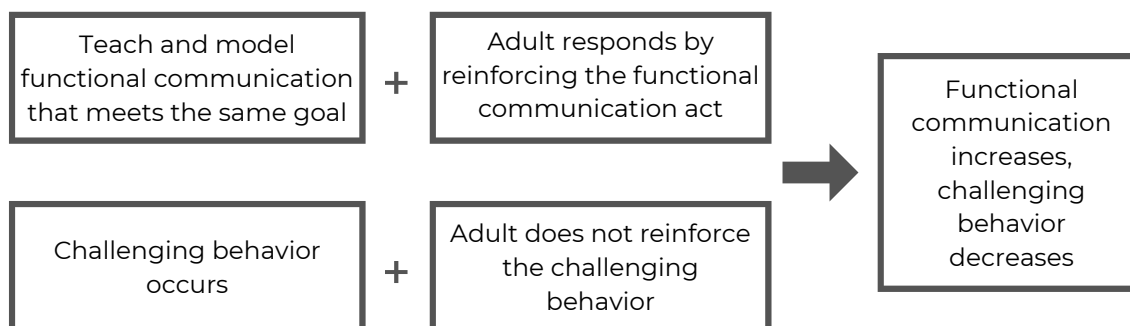


WHAT IS FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCY?

When two behaviors have the same outcome.

Ex: Child may get your attention by hitting you or by saying "mama".

REPLACING BEHAVIORS WITH FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The functionally equivalent communication act should be individualized and chosen based on the child's developmental level.

- May include gestures, signs, words, or another AAC system

If your child is engaging in significant challenging behaviors, please consult a professional for support.

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH LIZ WILLIS, SLP & BCBA OF *COMMUNICATION AND BEHAVIOR SOLUTIONS*

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