

4 Functions of Behavior

Know your 4 A's

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ATTENTION

Social Positive Reinforcement

An individual may be engaging in a behavior to gain attention from another person (parent, teacher, therapist, classmate, friends, etc.). This attention can be good (praise, etc.) or bad (yelling, etc.)

How do I know if the behavior is ATTENTION MAINTAINED?

Refer to you're A-B-C data. If the "C" that follows the "Bx" usually involves another person, it may be functioning for ATTENTION.

ACCESS to tangibles

Social Positive Reinforcement

An individual may be engaging in a behavior to gain access to an item or activity.

How do I know if the behavior is ATTENTION MAINTAINED?

Refer to you're A-B-C data. If the "C" that follows the "Bx" usually involves access to a preferred item or activity, it may be functioning for ACCESS.

AVOID/ESCAPE

Social Negative Reinforcement

An individual may be engaging in a behavior to avoid or escape a task, instruction, activity or person. Avoidance or escape behaviors may not always be related to a task, it may also be to get away from a specific part of the environment (Person, place or thing).

How do I know if the behavior is ESCAPE MAINTAINED?

Refer to you're A-B-C data. If the "C" that follows the "Bx" usually involves a change in the environmental contingency - avoiding, delaying or escaping a person place or thing, it may be functioning for AVOIDANCE/ESCAPE. The "C" may be a break from a task, a time out, delaying a task, etc.

AUTOMATIC (sensory)

Automatic Positive or Negative Reinforcement

An individual may be engaging in a behavior to give themselves an internal sensation that is pleasing (sometimes referred to as self-stimulatory), or removing an internal sensation that is aversive.

How do I know if the behavior is an AUTOMATICALLY MAINTAINED?

Refer to you're A-B-C data. If the "Bx" is occurring in a wide range of settings, with a wide range of "C"s and it sometimes occurs while the individual is alone, it may be functioning AUTOMATICALLY.