

Other Examples of the Reinforcement Process

Escape from social attention

It might be that for children and adults who do not like social contact, behaviours that challenge are an effective way of getting others to leave them alone. This may be a particularly important reason why children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder show behaviours that challenge. Watch the short film at the top of the page to see an example of this.

If the person does not have an alternative way of asking others to leave them alone and behaviours that challenge are effective at making others leave, it is likely that the person will show the behaviour in the future.

Access to tangible items

People with an intellectual disability often enjoy interacting with objects or things around them. Sometimes parents or support workers need to take these objects away (for meal times, school etc). Sometimes this may lead to behaviours that challenge. If behaviours that challenge are an effective way of gaining access to objects then the person is likely to show this behaviour again next time an object they want is removed.

You can watch an example of this (role play actors) in the following clip:

Escape from unpleasant sensory experiences

Sometimes a person may show behaviours that challenge to escape from an aversive sensory experience such as a loud noise or a bright light. Sensory hyper or hypo sensitivities are common in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

This is highlighted in the following clip (role playactors):

NEXT: Other triggers for behaviours that challenge