

Box 11: Example-Using ABC charts to assess self-injury.

	Antecedent	Behaviour	Consequence
1	Child is alone	Child presses on eye	Nothing
2	Parent is talking to a friend	Child bangs head on the floor	Parent stops talking and picks up child
3	Parent asks child to put away toys	Child bites hand	Parent takes child to another room
4	Parent is on telephone	Child slaps face repeatedly	Parent puts phone down and distracts child with biscuit
5	Parent and child are folding clothes together	Child bites fingers	Parent goes into another room
6	Parent and child are folding clothes together	Child bites fingers	Parent takes child into another room
7	Child is playing on own	Child hits head	Nothing
8	Parent and child are playing together	Child slaps face	Parent distracts child with favourite toy
9	Parent is playing with child's sibling	Child bangs head	Parent encourages child to join in
10	Parent is washing child's face	Child bites hand	Parent goes to another room

Items 1 and 7 are examples of sensory reinforcement. Although there is no obvious consequence in terms of behaviour by another person, the behaviour is reinforcing on its own so the stimulation the behaviour provides is the reinforcer.

Items 2 and 9 are examples of positive social reinforcement as the SIB results in attention from the parent and there was no attention before the self-injury.

Items 3 and 6 are examples of negative reinforcement by escape from a demand as the SIB results in the demand being removed (in these examples by the child escaping the room altogether).

Items 4 and 8 are examples of positive reinforcement by access to tangibles as SIB results in access to food (4) or a preferred item (8).

Items 5 and 10 are examples of negative reinforcement by avoidance of social contact as SIB results in the adult moving away from the child.