

# FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR

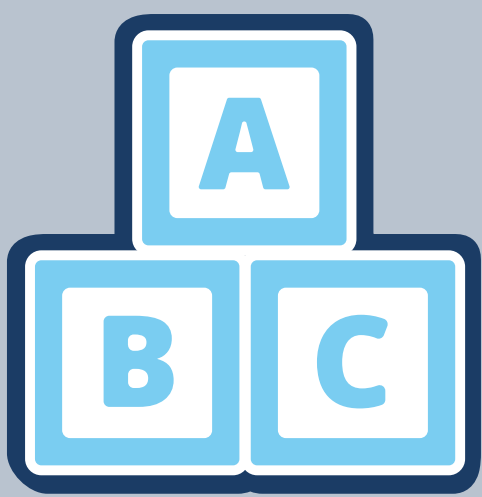
## Understanding Why Behavior Occurs

### ESCAPE / AVOIDANCE

Wanting to get away from or avoid an undesirable situation, activity, item, person, etc..

Example: A therapist says, "Wash your hands," and the child runs out of the bathroom.

The child is engaging in an activity that allows them to escape or avoid a situation/activity.



### ACCESS TO TANGIBLES

Wanting access to a specific item or activity.

Example: A therapist takes the iPad away from a child. The child pinches the therapist, so the therapist gives the iPad back. Pinching gained access to the iPad, so pinching will continue.

The child is trying to obtain an object/activity.

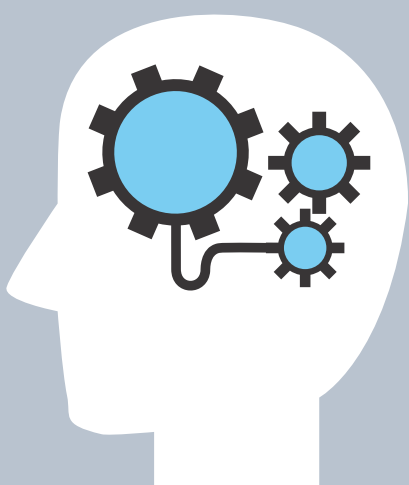
### ACCESS TO ATTENTION

Wanting to gain someone's attention.

Example: A child screams, "Look at me!" And the individual turns to look at the child.

Example: A child swipes items off a table, so a parent comes to help clean up.

The child is engaging in an activity that gains another person's attention.



### AUTOMATIC REINFORCEMENT

One's own movements/actions feel good to them.

Example: A child twirls his or her hair as they sit for an extended amount of time. If twirling hair gives that individual the sensory input they are seeking, then hair twirling will continue.

The child is automatically reinforced by the movements or actions taking place.