

REASONS FOR PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIOR

HISTORY OF BEHAVIOR

- When did the behavior first happen?
- Have the behaviors persisted across grade levels/settings?
- Has the behavior improved or deteriorated?
- What strategies have been effective in addressing the behavior?

STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Under what conditions does the individual do well?
- During what times or activities is the individual most successful?
- What are areas of strength and interest for the individual?
- Are identified strengths and interests utilized for programming purposes and are they reinforced?
- Does the person have an opportunity to be successful each day?

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- In what settings does the behavior happen?
- What aspects of the environment may be contributing to the behavior?
 - Space
 - Noise
 - Proximity to Others
 - Organization of Space
 - Lighting

STUDENT SCHEDULES

- According to the individual's schedule, is the majority of his/her day spent engaged in instruction/productive activity?
- Are there extensive periods of unstructured or down time?

STUDENT RAPPORT

- Are there specific instructors/staff/adults who are more or less successful with the individual?
- What are the characteristics of those with whom the person is most successful?

COMMUNICATION

- Does the individual have the skills or ability to respond in an appropriate fashion? At the heart of every behavior challenge is a skill deficit. The only way to change behavior long term is to teach an alternative skill.
- Does the behavior serve a purpose for the individual?
- What are they getting from the behavior?

OTHER FACTORS

- Does the individual have any medical problems or take any medications? Could this be affecting behavior? Does the individual have difficulty with sleeping and/or with eating? Are the person's nutritional needs being met?
- How is the individual able to communicate? Communication challenges (even if the person is verbal) are tightly linked to behavior difficulties.
- Are there conditions inside the home which may be troubling the individual? This may include financial stress, emotional stress, physical stress, loss of family members to death or divorce or a host of issues. If this is the case, families may need help and support from various agencies.