

Formal functions of behavior

'E.A.T.S'

Escape



Escape behaviors typically occur when a child wants to avoid or "escape" doing something.

Attention



Attention-seeking behavior occurs when a child desires feedback or a response from you - either positive or negative.

Tangibles



A child may engage in certain behaviors because they are looking to gain access to something tangible like a cookie or a toy.

Sensory



Sensory stimulation occurs when a child wants to experience a pleasant sensation or replace discomfort.

Understanding why a child is showing certain behaviors is the most important part of helping them. Behaviors are how a developing child shows how they are feeling internally or reacting to the external environment.