

## Functions of Behavior

Fuction refers to the "why" or the specific purpose of the behavior

Behaviors can

look the same
but serve
different
purposes

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR

**SKILL DEFICITS** 

**PAST TRAUMA** 

**LEARNING HISTORY** 

**UNMET NEEDS** 

## the 4 functions

#### ESCAPE/ AVOIDANCE

- Delaying difficult tasks
- Getting out of a place
- Getting away from a person

#### **ATTENTION**

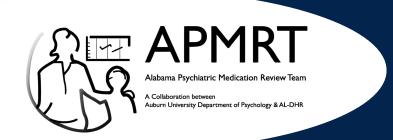
- Seeking interaction
- Looking for a reaction
- Physical connection/comfort

#### **ACCESS**

- Getting items or foods
- Going to a favorite place
- No sharing or interruption

#### SENSORY / AUTOMATIC

- Meeting a sensory need
- Reducing discomfort
- Providing stimulation



# Functions of Behavior

### UNCOVERING THE "WHY"

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Has this behavior "worked out" for the child in the past? How might that be playing a role in this situation?
- Is this situation similar to a traumatic situation from this child's past? How might that affect this child's behavior?
- Is this child doing this because they can't complete the instruction they have been given?
- Is this child trying to get away from something they don't like?
- Is the child be trying to gain control or choice in what they're doing?
- Is this child trying to get to someone they love/want to be around?
- Does the child have other items to interact with? Is the child bored?
- Is there something I could teach this child to help this situation (how to ask for help, how to ask to be left alone, how to complete a chore, etc.)?