

Lunch and Learn, June 11, 2020, Why on earth does my child do that? Understanding your Child's Behavior

Carol Schall and Cyndi Pitonyak



Housekeeping

- For educational and quality control, we will be recording this zoom session.
- By participating, you are consenting to being recorded.
- Before this session is shared, we will edit to remove identifying information to protect your privacy.
- The Q&A section will be removed and only be shared as an anonymous transcript



We don't always use words to communicate.



- Most communication is actually non-verbal.
- Subtle ways of communicating are socially out of reach for some individuals.



- When a person does this....
- maybe they are saying this...



What does "behavior" mean?

When a person does this...

- While doing an activity a person falls to the floor kicking, screaming, and crying

Maybe they are saying...

- "I don't like to do this."
- "I need help doing this activity."
- "Please slow down, you are moving too fast."
- "Please give me a break from this activity."



What does "behavior" mean?

When a person does this...

- During a "fun activity" a person throws the activities they are doing

Maybe they are saying...

- "I need you to be with me."
- "I don't know what to do when you give me so many things."
- "I need help organizing my area."
- "I like noise when I am playing."



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Schall, C. & Pitonyak, C. (June 11, 2020). Why on earth does my child do that? Understanding your child's behavior. www.vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm

What does "behavior" mean?

When a person does this...

- When in a car, the person rocks rapidly and hits the windows and themselves

Maybe they are saying...

- "I feel sick."
- "I don't want to go where we are going."
- "I don't know where we are going."
- "I don't like sitting here."



To serve a person who uses their behavior to communicate with you...

- Try to observe the behavior and think about what it might mean
- Stop and think about what was happening immediately before that behavior occurred.
- Observe what helps the person calm down after the behavior occurred.
- Share and discuss your observations with others.



When you have an idea of what the behavior may mean, you can...



- change the environment
- teach the person another way to communicate that...
- respond to them by...



When the person does this....	Maybe they are saying this...	Therefore we should...
When asked to do work, the person hits other people or cries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I don't want to do this activity." • "This is too hard. I need help." • "Please tell me when I will be finished." • "I am worried I will get this wrong." • "I don't understand what you want me to do." 	Change the environment: Teach them to... Respond to them by...



Upcoming Topics

Date	Topic	Presenter
June 18, 2020	Fostering Interests to Increase Motivation, Friendships & Employment Opportunities	Staci Carr & Teresa Cogar
June 25, 2020	How can my child get organized, pay attention, & complete a task?	Staci Carr & Josh Taylor

Registration Link: <https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm>



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For questions or more information

Please visit:

www.vcuautismcenter.org

Or

e-mail: autismcenter@vcu.edu

