Behaviour of Concern and Positive Behaviour Support

If a person does something repeatedly that annoys or hurts others, that is a behaviour of concern. They are doing it for a reason, but it isn’t always clear what the reason is. It’s a behaviour of concern to others because it gets in the way of communicating and supporting the person.

Positive behaviour support reduces behaviours of concern, if the support is targeted to the reason or underlying functions of the behaviour. Interventions that do not address underlying function - the reason for the behaviour of concern - are unlikely to have any impact.

Proactive interventions directly linked to the underlying function are likely to be successful. A simple example of positive behaivour support is teaching replacement communication techniques to a person who hits you on the shoulder to get your attention.

Useful practical learning about positive behaviour support:

<https://www.downsyndromevictoria.org.au/DSV/Our_services/Education_support/Online_Modules_for_Educators.aspx>

It is also important to note that some people with an intellectual disability who show behaviours of concern may have underlying mental health issues and may require an assessment by a psychiatrist. If they have a mental illness as well as an intellectual disability, they have what is called a dual diagnosis.

For more information: <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019-06/compendium-resources-positive-behaviour-support.pdf>