

Evaluating Challenging Behavior Definition Checklist

Remember that objectives should be observable, measurable and repeatable.

1. Is the maladaptive behavior measurable and observable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is the maladaptive behavior label culturally sensitive and age appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Observer can see or hear the occurrence of the maladaptive behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Is the definition free of any reference to internal states (e.g. frustrated, overstimulated)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Does the definition (if applicable) include a dimension of the behavior such as intensity (e.g. leaves a red mark, breaks the skin)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
6. Is the selected measurement procedure appropriate? (Use job aid with decision tree.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Examples:

1. Task Refusal: is defined as any response that does not match the delivered instruction within 20 seconds from the time the instruction was delivered, often accompanied by vocal protesting and swiping of materials to the floor.
2. Teeth grinding: any time the person has a closed mouth and also moves his/her clenched lower jaw forward and backwards either slowly or rapidly. The movement may create an audible grating sound.
3. Physical aggression in the form of scratching is defined as any occurrence of digging the fingernails into another person's skin and/or moving them across another person's skin or clothing, often resulting in red marks on the skin or breaking of the skin.
4. Aggression towards staff: an instance where the learner aggresses towards a staff member by pulling the staff's clothes or hair, and/or pinching a part of the staff's body by applying pressure between his thumb and at least one other finger, and/or scratching the staff with his fingers to the intensity that it leaves a red mark or breaks the skin.