

# Behavior is Communication

Understanding What Your Child's Behavior is Saying

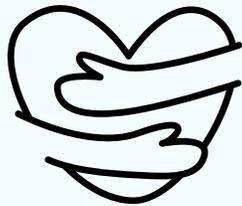
## THE FOUR FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR:

Access



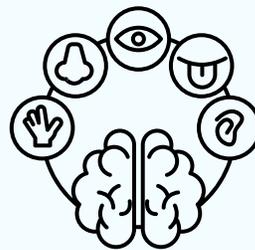
Desiring a specific object or activity

Attention/  
Connection



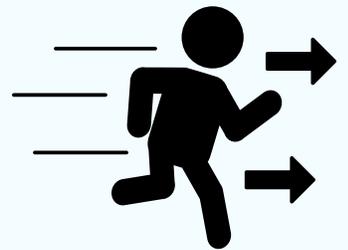
Wanting attention, social interaction, closeness, or support

Sensory  
Needs



Seeking or avoiding sensory input

Avoidance



Trying to avoid a person, task, or situation

- Children use behavior to communicate needs, feelings, or challenges when words are not available or effective.
- Looking closely at patterns in behavior helps us understand what a child is trying to communicate.
- When adults focus on understanding the reason behind behavior, they can respond in ways that better support the child.
- Think "What is my child getting from behaving this way?"



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