



Biopsychosocial Considerations

Functions of Behaviour

- A behaviour persists because it meets a need
- It is an attempt to communicate something
- Possible functions include:
 - Tangible: “Give me”
 - Escape: “Run Away”
 - Attention: “Look at me”
 - Sensory: “It feels good”
 - Biological / Medical: “It hurts”
- Is one of these functions happening before or after a behaviour?

The Biopsychosocial Approach

- Because there is a variety of reasons that a person may exhibit maladaptive behaviours, it is important to ensure that medical and sensory needs are first assessed and addressed.
- Socially mediated interventions will not be effective if these needs are not being met.
- Examples include:
 - infections
 - hearing/vision loss
 - constipation
 - medication side effects
 - sleep disturbances

[Information Sheet No. 5 has a corresponding Challenge Sheet No. C5]