



# Course Companion

for T Level Technical Qualification  
in Education and Early Years

*Element 4: Behaviour*

Update v1.1, August 2023

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# Teacher's Introduction

This course companion is for **Element 4: Behaviour**, part of the NCFE Cache T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (603/5829/4). The aim of this resource is to guide students through the core content of the unit, providing them with in-depth information that covers each of the specification points. This resource aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will help them succeed in the assessment for this unit, which involves demonstrating an understanding of how additional needs are determined and how support can be provided to those with additional needs.


For clarity and ease of use, the content of this course companion matches the order of the specification points. The content is structured as follows against the unit's learning aims:

- **Element 4.1:** The stages of children's and young people's social, emotional and physical development and how they inform behaviour, and how practitioners can use this information to meet children's / young people's needs.
- **Element 4.2:** How a range of individual, environmental and educational factors can influence children's and young people's behaviour.
- **Element 4.3:** The link between self-esteem, identity and unwanted behaviour (including the effects of over-confidence as well as low self-esteem).
- **Element 4.4:** How self-image, self-esteem and ideal self-inform children's / young people's self-concept.
- **Element 4.5:** The importance of children and young people knowing how to adapt their behaviour to different social contexts.
- **Element 4.6:** Why it is important to set and follow behaviour management policy and processes.
- **Element 4.7:** How home, family circumstances and care history can affect children's and young people's behaviour.
- **Element 4.8:** How children / young people may respond to both positive and negative verbal and non-verbal communication from adults.
- **Element 4.9:** How and why practitioners use positive approaches to motivate children's / young people's behaviour, attainment and achievement.
- **Element 4.10:** How and why practitioners use a range of strategies for setting clear expectations of behaviour.
- **Element 4.11:** How and why practitioners use a range of strategies to support children and young people to develop self-regulation and resilience.
- **Element 4.12:** How and why practitioners use a range of strategies to respond to behaviour.
- **Element 4.13:** How and why practitioners use a range of strategies to motivate children and young people to test and stretch their skills and abilities.
- **Element 4.14:** How practitioners assess risks to their own and others' safety when dealing with challenging behaviour.


Throughout the resource, there are key features to keep an eye out for:




**Keywords:** used to draw students' attention to various keywords throughout the unit.




**Did you know?**  
Provides further information and additional content to inspire students.



**Case studies**  
Help students to apply the issues identified in the resource to real-world scenarios.



**Applied activities** encourage application of knowledge to the case studies or to real-world scenarios in the health and social care sector.



**Research activities** inspire further research and stretch and challenge higher-ability students.

Some of the activities can be completed using either computers, mobile phones or tablets to aid students' research, and/or can be completed outside the classroom as homework.

There is also a set of **revision questions** provided at the end of each section (with answers and generic levelled mark scheme where required included). These questions should help students recap their knowledge throughout the course companion and will ensure that they have understood what they have read.

October 2022

## Update v1.1, August 2023 (to match specification changes for first teaching September 2022/2023)

- Standardising language used by practitioners – 'Rewards systems' changed to 'Incentive and recognition schemes' on pp. 22, 38, 39, 42, 55, 61, 78, and 80 (to match specification changes for first teaching September 2022)
- Reference to 'Education and Childcare' has been amended to 'Education and Early Years' throughout.
- Reference to 'teaching children and young people how to reframe challenges in a positive light' has been amended to 'supporting children and young people to reframe challenges in a positive light' on pp. 49–50.
- Reference to 'the student must understand how and why practitioners use a range of strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour' has been updated to 'the student must understand how and why practitioners use a range of strategies to respond to behaviour' on pp. 53–54 and in the answers to Q4 and Q5 on pp. 80–81.
- Reference to 'setting high expectations' has been amended to 'setting high, realistic expectations' on pp. 59, 63 and 83.
- Reference to 'involving parents/carers, as part of a whole-school approach' has been amended to 'involving parents/carers, as part of a whole setting approach' on pp. 59, 63 and 83.

## 4.1: How the stages of children's and young emotional and physical development may inform behaviour, and how practitioners can use this to meet children's / young people's needs

Not all children and young people develop socially, emotionally and physically at the same way as each other. This chapter will outline some of the stages of social, emotional and physical development which may inform a child's or young person's behaviour; it will also examine some of the ways in which practitioners can use this information to meet a child's or young person's needs.

### Stages of social development that may inform behaviour

Through interacting with their peers and with adults, children and young people develop in different ways. However, there are a number of aspects of social development which may inform children and young people are able to interact effectively in the classroom, at home and in the community. If these aspects of social development do not develop appropriately in children and young people, it may affect their behaviour and the way in which they interact with the world. Some of these aspects of a child's social development are discussed below.


#### Understanding of social norms

Social norms are an agreed set of rules which guide people in their daily interactions. They are not written down, and most of us pick up and absorb them as young children. Children, particularly adults, interact with each other in society. For example, it is usual when we meet someone to say 'Hello', or give a similar greeting, and to make eye contact when we talk to someone. Our understanding of these rules continue to develop as we grow from children to young people and then on into adulthood. Different social norms may apply in different situations. For example, when meeting someone in the business world for the first time it is usual to shake the person's hand; this rule wouldn't necessarily apply if you meet someone, for example, at a party.

Most three-year-olds are able to absorb social norms fairly quickly; however, there are many reasons why some children and young people may find it difficult to absorb, understand and/or abide by social norms.

#### Ability to relate to others

An ability to relate to others could be said to be linked to our ability to understand and empathise. Usually, this ability will develop alongside our increasing awareness of social norms. As mentioned, this does not happen in the same way and to the same extent for everyone. Why a child's or young person's ability to relate to others may not develop in the expected way will be looked at in Element 4.2 when we begin to look at how a range of educational factors can influence children's and young people's behaviour.



**Empathy:** the ability to understand and relate to how another person is feeling.

#### Levels of empathy

A child's or young person's ability to feel empathy develops alongside their ability to relate to others. If a child lacks empathy for others, this can affect the way they interact with others and can also negatively affect a child's behaviour. Practitioners could engage the child in activities in the classroom or setting which could help them to develop their ability to relate to others and their empathy towards others.

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## Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

There are a number of different SEND issues which may result in the child or young person not being able to communicate with others. This may lead to frustration and can result in the individual displaying challenging behaviours. Some of the difficulties and conditions which can lead to difficulties with communication are:

### Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Autism affects the way in which individuals communicate and interact with the world. People on the autism spectrum often have issues with social communication and social interaction; they may not respond to verbal and non-verbal cues such as gestures and the tone of voice someone uses. People with autism often find it difficult to pick up and understand social norms and cues.



#### Research activity

You can find out more about how ASD may affect children by visiting [www.autism.org.uk](https://www.autism.org.uk), the website of the National Autistic Society.

### Language delay

**Language delay** in children can be as a direct result of a condition such as ASD, deafness, Down's syndrome or hearing impairment;<sup>3</sup> in other cases, language delay can occur independently. This delay is nothing to do with the child's age. It is important to note that children who speak English as an additional language (EAL) are not considered to have a language delay as their difficulties are as a direct result of not being able to speak English yet.

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If the child or young person has difficulty understanding and/or using spoken language, this can lead them to feeling extremely frustrated as they will be unable to make their wishes known or be understood. Often these frustrations will manifest themselves in the form of uncooperative behaviour in the setting or classroom. It is important that practitioners find other ways to communicate with these children and that they find ways in which these children and young people can be included with their peers in the setting or classroom. The strategies introduced should take into account the maturity of the child or young person who is experiencing difficulties. The individual should be supported by professionals, in the classroom and at home, to help them to overcome any difficulties.

## Stages of emotional development which may impact on social development

As we saw with the stages of social development, the stage of emotional development can also inform their behaviour. There are a number of reasons why a child's emotional development is not as advanced as their peers, including SEND needs. Children can be helped in a number of ways to improve their emotional development.

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<sup>1</sup> National Autistic Society – What is autism? – <https://www.autism.org.uk>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

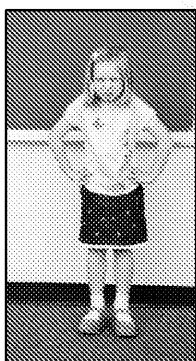
<sup>3</sup> Raising Children Network – Language delay – <https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/development/language-delay>

## Ability to name and manage own emotions

As a society it is vital that we learn to name and manage our own emotions in order to interact successfully with each other; this is known as emotional regulation. At different developmental stages in their lives, children begin to develop the ability to regulate and manage their own emotions, and, as effective practitioners, this is something we can continue to help them to develop. However, some children and young people do not develop the ability to regulate their own emotions at the same ages and stages of development as their peers. This can happen for a variety of reasons; for instance, if the child or young person has SEND needs. Being unable to effectively self-regulate can lead the child or young person to become frustrated and can lead to outbursts of behaviour such as tantrums. We must continue to help these children to be able to name and manage, or to regulate, their own emotions, if they are to be able to interact successfully with their peers and adults in the setting or classroom.

### Case study

*Rosa is seven and currently in Year 2 at a mainstream primary school (this means she is not in a special school). Rosa seems unable to be able to self-regulate and constantly has tantrums when she feels something in the classroom has not gone her way. Other children are now starting to avoid her.*



### Applied activity

Read the case study and think of ways in which you can help Rosa to self-regulate and manage her ups and downs or start by visiting the website at [zzed.co.uk](http://zzed.co.uk). Find ideas from this website that you look at – to develop a resource which can help Rosa to name and manage their own emotions.

## Levels of maturity

The level of maturity at which a child or young person is at can determine their reaction to a situation or an event. This is similar to the concept of self-regulation we looked at in section 4.11. We wouldn't necessarily expect a two- or three-year-old to have an appropriate reaction when they lose a game; however, we wouldn't expect an 11-year-old to have a losing at the same game. Most children's level of maturity will develop with age; however, there are reasons why a child's or young person's level of maturity does not develop at the expected rate. For example, the individual may have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or the child or young person may have specific medical needs which affect their development. Furthermore, if the child or young person has experienced, or is experiencing, a move at home, this is also likely to have a profound effect on their emotional development and maturity. As practitioners, we can support children and young people to help to manage their emotions and to help them respond more appropriately to events and situations.

## Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Children and young people with SEND may not always develop emotionally in the same way as their peers (depending on the nature of their need or disability). Conditions such as ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), among others, may result in a child's or young person's emotions developing at a different rate from those of their peers. These children and young people often experience additional frustrations to those which their peers may experience in everyday life, and this can have a direct impact on their behaviour. These individuals may need extra support from practitioners in order to develop their emotional maturity.

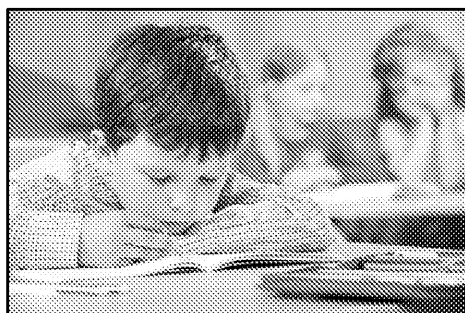
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## Stages of physical development which may influence behaviour

Children and young people are continually growing physically, and this can come in many different ways. This growth can even affect the way that children and young people behave.

**Gross motor skills:** our gross motor skills are responsible for actions such as running, jumping and skipping – any and all activities which involve large movements of the body using the larger muscles.



### Development of gross and fine motor skills

Our **gross and fine motor skills** develop generally within a certain time frame, known as developmental milestones. We can help children to develop their gross and fine motor skills through various movements and activities. However, children may not be able to do things before their bodies are ready; they need to practise more before they are able to carry them out unaided. For a variety of reasons, children and young people may not develop at age-appropriate stages, and this can lead to behavioural difficulties. In a variety of activities we can do with children and young people, we can help them to develop appropriate gross and fine motor skills.



#### Did you know?

Although handwriting may seem like a simple task, children need to develop their gross motor skills to be successful. Therefore, young children need opportunities to practise big arm movements to become successful writers. Getting children to use paintbrushes and water on the wall is a good example of this.

**Fine motor skills:** our fine motor skills use the smaller muscles in the body to make more refined and precise movements; for example, a baby passing a block from one hand to the other, or a child holding a pencil and writing.

### Applied activity

Research and create a timeline of fine and gross motor skills for individuals from birth to age 10. While every individual is different, most children will develop these skills within a certain time. If the development of these skills falls significantly outside the typical window, this may mean that the individual could be showing signs of having a special educational need.

## Body changes as a result of puberty

Puberty can be an incredibly difficult time for the children and young people going through it, not just physically but emotionally too. There is no set time at which puberty occurs, and this can vary according to the individual; children as young as eight have been known to go through puberty. This can be a very challenging time as rapid changes happen to the body. Puberty also causes hormone surges and can cause the individual to experience a rollercoaster of emotions from one day to the next. Puberty is also known to affect the sleep patterns of individuals, with teenagers often requiring much more sleep than they did previously.

As practitioners, we can help to support children and young people as they go through puberty by helping them to understand what is happening to their bodies and emotions. It is important that we give support to those who may be going through puberty at a young age, as they may not have the emotional maturity to deal with the changes that are happening. All children and young people will experience the same level of support from home when they are going through puberty, but some may need additional support from their educational setting.

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**Research activity**

What sorts of items might it be useful to keep in school for those students who may not have help at home to prepare them for their period or for those students who may start their first period at school? Make a list. Are there any charities who help to deal with 'period poverty'? The website Period Poverty [[zzed.uk/11783-periodpoverty](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-periodpoverty)] is a good place to start looking. Make a note of these charities in case you need to refer to them in the future.

**Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

As mentioned earlier in the chapter, children and young people may become frustrated when they are unable to perform activities and movements they wish to do. For example, a child may become frustrated and angry when they are unable to place the final block on a tower they are building. Children and young people with SEND may find that their gross and fine motor skills do not develop at the same rate as those of their peers and, in some cases, may never develop to the same level. This could result in the child or young person becoming extremely frustrated when they are unable to join in the same activities as their peers or be as successful as others when carrying out certain activities (for example, cutting paper or writing). As practitioners we need to be mindful of these differences but also be aware of how we can help to make an activity more accessible to those with SEND.

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#### 4.1 Revision questions

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1. Give **four** examples of issues which might affect a child's or young person's behaviour.
2. Describe **two** ways in which a child's or young person's SEND needs can affect their behaviour.
3. Explain **two** ways in which puberty can affect a young person's behaviour.
4. Explain what is meant by language delay in children and young people.

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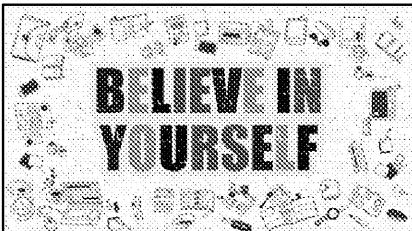
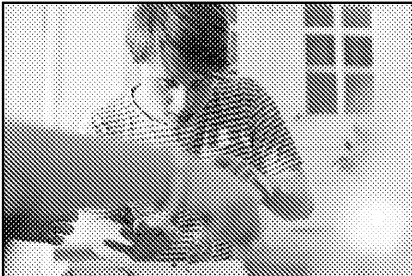
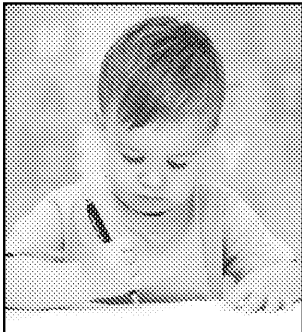


## Chapter 4.2: How a range of individual, environmental and educational factors can influence children and young people's behaviour

Because children and young people develop in different ways and at different speeds, there are a range of individual factors which can influence their behaviour. Children and young people also experience different environmental factors; for example, the home and community they grow up in, and their experiences at school and other educational settings. This chapter will explore how individual, environmental and educational factors can influence a child's or young person's behaviour.

### Individual factors which can influence children and young people's behaviour

There is a range of individual factors which can also influence how a child or young person behaves in the classroom and at home.

<p><b>Self-esteem</b></p> 	<p>An individual's <b>self-esteem</b> is their ability to feel good about themselves. A person who has high self-esteem will care about what others think of them, but not overly so. Unfortunately, some children and young people have low levels of self-esteem and this can influence how they behave at school and how they interact with their peers and adults in the setting.</p>
<p><b>SEND</b></p> 	<p>As discussed in Chapter 4.1, some children have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) which influence the ways in which they behave. An individual with SEND may be developing differently from their peers, or it may be because they find it difficult to carry out some of the activities that others can carry out easily. Whatever the reason for displaying unwanted behaviours, it is important to identify the root cause in order to help the individual manage their feelings before their behaviour deteriorates.</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p> 	<p>As a general rule, young children find it more difficult to express their feelings known and can become frustrated. Young children may also lack the necessary skills (discussed in Chapter 4.1) to carry out chosen activities. As children become more frustrated and behave in an unacceptable way, it is important for them to learn to manage their emotions so that they learn to deal with their feelings appropriately. It is also important for children to learn to express their feelings appropriately, and school staff can help them to do this.</p>

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## Environmental factors which can influence children's behaviour

As briefly mentioned in the introduction to this chapter, there is a range of environmental factors that can influence how a child or young person behaves. Not all of these factors are within the control of the educational setting's staff to change or influence; however, it is important that we consider such factors as part of the root cause of a child's or young person's behaviour. Some of these factors, such as family circumstances and care history, will be discussed in more detail later in Chapter 4.

### Culture and religious beliefs

A family's cultural and/or religious beliefs can greatly affect how a child or young person behaves in an educational setting or a school. In some cultures, it is believed that the child must obey adults and not answer back or disrespect adults in any way. In other households or communities, there is a high respect for education and educational settings. Whatever the child's or young person's background, it is important to take this into account when trying to find reasons for their behaviour. If a child or young person has a religious background the child or young person comes from.

**Foster carers:** when a child or young person cannot be looked after by their biological parents or by another family member, they are often cared for by a foster carer. This is a paid arrangement with an agency or the local authority responsible for the child.

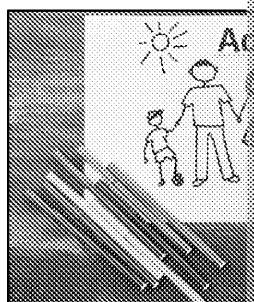
**Adoptive parents:** these parents adopt the child or young person on a permanent basis. They are then responsible for the child's or young person's upbringing and well-being in the same way they would be with a biological child.

**Group home:** in some circumstances it may not be appropriate to place the child or young person with foster carers; in these circumstances the child or young person will live with other children / young people in a group home. This is staffed by appropriate adult carers.

**Trauma:** trauma occurs when a child or young person experiences or witnesses traumatic events. These experiences can have a lasting impact on the individual.

### Care history

Not all children and young people are with their biological parents; this may be the case for a very young child. Some young people may be living with their biological relatives, with **foster carers**, **adoptive parents** or in a **group home**. Whatever their home circumstances, the fact that children and young people have been in care from a variety of different backgrounds means that they may have undergone trauma and may be experiencing difficulties now as they try to move on from this trauma. While some children and young people may also need specialist support, teachers should support these individuals in schools and educational settings to help them to deal with what they are feeling. It is understandable, experiencing **trauma** can have a lasting impact on the child's or young person's behaviour.



#### Applied activity

Work with a partner to find out as much as you can about ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) and how they can lead an individual to suffer from trauma and attachment issues. Use the information you find to create a presentation (e.g. using PowerPoint) to share with your colleagues to improve their knowledge.

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## Family circumstances

Every child and young person comes from a different family background and will have different experiences. Here are some of the factors, in terms of family experience or young person approaches their education and which can affect their behaviour.

### Family structure

It is important to consider who the child or young person is living with at home. There are multiple different family types which exist in today's world – for example, blended or step families, where two different families come together and one or both parents have a child or children from previous relationships. The type of family in which the child or young person is living can have a profound effect on their behaviour, and they may need help if they are experiencing changes in their family circumstances.



### Parenting styles

There may also be differences in parenting styles which can affect how the child behaves at school. For example, uninvolved parents may pay little or no attention to what their child does at school and may not be supportive of the school's attempts to improve their child's behaviour. It is important to be respectful of the views of parents and carers when trying to involve them in their child's education.

### Socio-economic background

Children and young people come from a variety of different backgrounds and households, with varying levels of financial security. Depending on the area you work in, there may be extensive levels of poverty which children and young people need to contend with. Regardless of their socio-economic background, all children and young people deserve to be able to access the same opportunities in schools and educational settings; some, however, may need greater support to overcome potential barriers to learning which exist as a result of their financial circumstances. Schools get additional funding based on children and young people who have been on free school meals at any point in the previous six years – this is known as **pupil premium** funding.

Pupil premium funding is additional funding that schools receive for each child in their school who is eligible for free school meals. This funding is used to support the educational achievement of these children and young people, to help them overcome potential barriers to learning which exist as a result of their financial circumstances.

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## Educational factors which can influence children and young people's behaviour

There are a number of educational factors which can influence how children and young people behave in school and other educational settings. Some of these factors are outlined below.

<b>Bullying and discrimination</b>	<p>When children and young people have been or are being discriminated against in some way, this can have a profound impact on their behaviour. Some individuals may become withdrawn because they may refuse to attend school; others may choose to act up. Either way, this is a cry for help, and bullying and discrimination should be dealt with in line with the setting's relevant policies. Bullying can have a lasting impact on an individual's well-being and that even though the bullying is no longer taking place, they still need continued support to help them to deal with it.</p>
<b>Peer relationships</b>	<p>How children and young people interact with their peers can impact on their well-being and behaviour. It is quite usual for children to disagree with each other, and as long as these disagreements do not cause lasting harm is generally done. However, in some cases the disagreements are long-standing in nature and many more children and young people are involved the longer the dispute continues. Disagreements can spill into school and vice versa. However, it would be naïve to think that disagreements which start outside school will not affect children during school time. Therefore, it is key that setting and school staff identify the root cause of the disagreement before it becomes worse and impacts on individuals' mental health and well-being and before it starts to affect the educational setting.</p>
<b>Relationships between children / young people and practitioners</b>	<p>It is important that practitioners aim to develop strong relationships with children and young people in their care. By getting to know them and understanding them, practitioners can help children and young people to behave as well as possibly can. Furthermore, children and young people are more likely to follow socially acceptable ways if they have formed strong bonds with their practitioners in the educational setting.</p>



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## 4.2 Revision questions

1. Explain **two** environmental factors which can influence children's and young people's behaviour.
2. Which **one** of the following is an example of an individual factor which can influence people's behaviour?
  - A Care history
  - B Self-esteem
  - C Peer relationships
  - D Socio-economic background
3. Describe **one** way in which family circumstances can affect children's and young people's behaviour.
4. Explain why it is important to deal with bullying and/or discrimination as soon as possible.
5. Read the following case material:

*Jemima is five years old and has recently joined the Reception class in the school. Jemima is very withdrawn a lot of the time and doesn't seem to enjoy her school. Furthermore, she doesn't seem to be making friends.*

Answer the following question:

Identify and evaluate which individual, environmental and educational factors influence behaviour in the classroom. What could practitioners do to help Jemima beyond the influence they have on her behaviour?

Your response should show:

- knowledge and understanding of the range of individual, environmental and educational factors which can influence a child's or young person's behaviour;
- which of these factors may be responsible for Jemima's presentation in the classroom;
- what practitioners may be able to do in order to help Jemima to combat the factors influencing her behaviour.

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## Chapters 4.3 and 4.4: The link between self-esteem, unwanted behaviour, and how self-image, self-esteem and ideal self inform children's / young people's behaviour

As children become older, they begin to develop a more complex sense of who they are and how they compare themselves to others, including against their peers and any adults they encounter. There is a strong connection between an individual's self-esteem, identity and any unwanted behaviour. As practitioners, we need to understand how self-image, self-esteem and ideal self inform children's / young people's self-concept, in order to be able to help them grow as individuals and to support them during their time in educational settings.

### The link between self-esteem, identity and unwanted behaviour



Self-esteem, as discussed in Chapter 4.2, is a key factor in how we think of ourselves. As mentioned in the introduction, self-esteem is linked to our identity and how we think of ourselves.

#### Low self-esteem

When children and young people have low self-esteem, they are more likely to interact well with their peers and are more likely to conform to expectations. Children and young people may have poor self-esteem for a number of reasons, but individuals with poor self-esteem often have behavioural expectations in schools. These individuals may see themselves as unwelcome or they may prefer to misbehave rather than to try – and fail at – an activity. Some may have experienced nothing but ill-treatment from others and consequently may feel that life and cannot see the point in doing anything to change this situation. Individuals with low self-esteem often have trust issues and expect others to treat them badly; in fact they are often drawn to people who treat them badly. It is possible to help children and young people to improve their self-esteem with time and patience as you will be attempting to counteract all the negative experiences they have had in the past. Children and young people should be helped to focus on their strengths rather than perceived disadvantages they feel they might have.

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#### Over-confidence

Being overly confident in their approach to life can be just as damaging to a child as possessing low self-esteem. Those who are overly confident can alienate their peers by being lacking in empathy and as feeling themselves to be superior to others. These individuals are often not part of a team as they may feel that they are better in every way than their teammates. These individuals often become frustrated when they come across a skill which they cannot master when they meet a problem they cannot easily solve. These individuals can be difficult to manage in the classroom but need just as much help as those children and young people who have low self-esteem. It is important to consider whether or not the individual is really over-confident or whether they are using bravado in an attempt to cover up feelings of inadequacy. Staff need to investigate where the individual's confidence has developed from. If it is a direct result of parenting, this will need to be addressed. Children and young people need to understand that it is okay to feel confident but not to let it make it difficult to relate to others and may result in unnecessary risk-taking.

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<sup>4</sup> MentalHealth.net – Identity and Self-Esteem – <https://www.mentalhelp.net/middle-childhood-development/>



## How self-image, self-esteem and ideal self inform young people's self-concept

In the following section you will begin to understand how **self-image**, **self-esteem** and **ideal self** are the three elements which inform children's and young people's **self-concept**.



Self-image	+	Self-esteem	+	Ideal self	=	Self-concept
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## How children develop self-concept through two defining stages

Children develop self-concept through two defining stages: the development of the **existential self** and the development of the **categorical self**.

### The development of the existential self

The development of the child's existential self can begin to develop when the child is around 18 months old.<sup>5</sup> This is when the child begins to see themselves as a separate individual and begin to understand that they continue to exist as time goes on.<sup>5</sup> As always, the development of the existential self is dependent on a range of factors, including whether the child has any special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). The interactions the child has with others in those early months can also affect the development of the existential self; for example, if someone smiles at them and they smile back, or if they reach out to touch an object and it moves.



### The development of the categorical self

Once the baby/child begins to realise that they are separate from everyone else in their world, they begin to develop a sense of themselves – they begin to categorise themselves. This is the development of the categorical self. The first thing the child notices about themselves is their age and gender. As children begin to notice things about themselves, they begin to notice things about their hair colour and/or eye colour. Eventually, they become able to notice things about their own personality.

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<sup>5</sup> Dr Saul McLeod – Self Concept — <https://www.simplypsychology.org/self-concept.html>

## The possible impact of positive and negative self-concept

It is important that we understand that having a negative self-concept or a positive self-concept can have a profound impact on a child's or young person's behaviour, cognition and/or social skills.

### The possible impact of positive and negative self-concept on behaviour

Having a negative self-concept could have the following possible consequences for how a young person behaves:

#### Individuals with negative self-concept

- Individuals with negative self-concept are likely to see any attempt to implement new processes with them as a form of criticism and, therefore, are unlikely to engage. They may feel they are being unfairly targeted and/or victimised by setting staff because they have a negative self-concept.
- Children and young people who have negative self-concept will often unconfidently participate in school activities. For example, they may not feel they deserve for anyone to like them or that they will be rewarded for good behaviour. They may feel that they are likely to get into trouble anyway, they might as well help things along.
- Children and young people with negative self-concept often attract each other in school and other educational settings; this often has a negative impact on the way they behave.
- Individuals with negative self-concept often come from an unsupportive home environment. They are unlikely to be concerned about the way they behave in school, children and young people may feel that they are invited to behave how they want in school. Alternatively, behaving badly in school may be seen by the individual as a way of getting attention from staff and at home. For some individuals with a negative self-concept, any attention is better than none.

#### Case study

*Mollie is 11 and in Year 7 in the school you work in. She constantly shouts out and seems to delight in breaking as many school rules as possible. She's a very intelligent girl but rarely shows this side of herself in the classroom, preferring to disrupt lessons rather than to join in. Her parents are not supportive of the school's attempt to help Mollie to improve her behaviour and don't turn up to meetings which the school organises with them.*



#### Application

Read the case study and think about how Mollie's behaviour might be linked to her self-concept. How might this affect her learning and the school's efforts to help her improve her behaviour?

#### Individuals with positive self-concept



Individuals with positive self-concept are more likely to follow school behaviour policy and procedures. They understand the need to be praised and rewarded, and generally will engage in behaviour which results in consequences. They understand the need for schools to have acceptable standards and will take the time to explain this to them. Children and young people with a positive self-concept like to be thought well of and will make positive behavioural choices from the individual's perspective.

Children and young people with a positive self-concept are more likely to come from supportive homes where there have been clear behavioural boundaries set. They understand the need for these boundaries in school. Of course, even with positive self-concept, there will be times when a child or young person makes the wrong choice behaviourally on occasion.

**Cognition:** cognition refers to a range of different processes which happen in the mind when learning something new. It also refers to how we store and retrieve information.

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## The possible impact of positive and negative self-concept on c

If a child or young person has negative self-concept, this can have a profound effect. Possessing negative self-concept is likely to have a negative effect on a child's or young person's learning throughout their time at school for a number of different reasons.

- Often, children and young people with negative self-concept think they are not capable. This idea becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. This idea has often been reinforced by the fact that it can be difficult, but not impossible, to reverse.
- In contrast, having positive self-concept often gives children and young people confidence. Individuals who have had lots of experience at succeeding in learning environments are more likely to be open-minded when it comes to approaching new learning.

Of course, as we saw earlier, it is possible to be overly confident, and this can have a negative effect on learning and cognition; however, these children and young people are still more likely to be successful than their negative self-concept counterparts.

### Research activity

Use the Internet and/or the library to find out more about 'growth mindset' and how this concept can have a positive impact on all learners, but particularly those with negative self-concept. You may wish to start with the work of the author Carol Dweck. Make notes on the most important points as you read.



### Applied activity

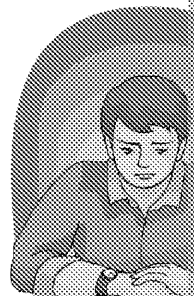
Once you have carried out your research, work with a partner to discuss how this concept could be used to help colleagues with negative self-concept. This could be used to help plan and learning.

## The possible impact of positive and negative self-concept on social and emotional development

As we saw in Chapter 4.1, it is extremely important that children develop at an age-appropriate rate emotionally; of course, children with special educational needs and/or disabilities may develop at a different rate from their peers. Having negative self-concept can have a profound effect on how children and young people develop socially and emotionally. In contrast, children with positive self-concept are more likely to develop socially and emotionally at an age-appropriate rate.

Possible impact of positive self-concept on social and emotional development	Possible impact of negative self-concept on social and emotional development
Children and young people with positive self-concept are more likely to be able to make and maintain friendships and to be able to form appropriate relationships with adults in the setting.	Because of their negative self-concept, children and young people may struggle to make and maintain friendships and appropriate relationships in the setting.
Individuals with positive self-concept are more likely to have learned how to manage and <b>regulate their emotions</b> .	Children and young people with negative self-concept may struggle to regulate their emotions appropriately as a result of their negative self-concept.
Children and young people with positive self-concept are more likely to be able to express themselves appropriately and are less likely to have outbursts in the classroom or setting.	These individuals may struggle to express themselves appropriately and may have outbursts of anger and frustration in the classroom or setting.

**Regulate their emotions:** being able to emotionally regulate is when we are able to recognise and control our emotions (both positive and negative) either consciously or subconsciously.



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### 4.3 and 4.4 Revision questions

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1. Identify the **three** elements that make up our self-concept.
2. Outline the term 'existential self'.
3. Explain how having negative self-concept can affect a child's or young person.
4. Identify **two** possible negative consequences of a child or young person having a negative self-concept.
5. Which **two** of the following are attributes children begin to notice about themselves as they develop their categorical self?
  - A They begin to see themselves as a separate entity in the world.
  - B They notice their gender.
  - C They begin to notice physical attributes such as their eye colour.
  - D They begin to be aware of their ideal self.


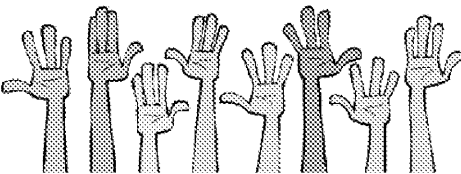
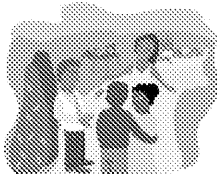

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## Chapter 4.5: The importance of children and young people knowing how to adapt their behaviour to different social contexts

An essential part of interacting with others in society is knowing how to adapt our behaviour to the current social context we are inhabiting. For example, the behaviour which is acceptable at a football match is unlikely to be acceptable in the staffroom at work. Children and young people are supported in developing their understanding of how to adapt their behaviour to different social contexts which they may experience. It is important they develop this understanding for a range of contexts including those outlined below.

<p><b>Focus on learning in educational settings</b></p> 	<p>Children and young people need to be able to focus on learning in educational settings. They need to understand the behavioural expectations in the classroom and be able to concentrate and to learn. It can be difficult for others in the setting to remember that children and young people are still developing and they may modify their behaviour in different settings. For example, understanding the difference between what is acceptable to behave in the playground and what is acceptable in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Develop impulse control</b></p> 	<p>In Chapter 4.4 we discussed the need for children and young people to be able to regulate their own emotions and behaviour. The need to be able to self-regulate is a key requirement for children and young people to function well in educational settings. Having impulse control in order to function well in educational settings. Having impulse control means being able to refrain from engaging in certain behaviours. An example would be where children are asked to put up their hands in lessons but to put up their hands to say. Most children and young people develop their impulse control; however, some may struggle with this, as will individuals with a condition such as deficit hyperactivity disorder).</p>
<p><b>Conform to social norms</b></p>  <p><b>Social norms:</b> a set of unwritten rules in society which tell us how to behave in different situations.</p>	<p>Knowing how to behave in certain social contexts is a key requirement for children and young people to function as a society. Children and young people need to know how it is appropriate to behave in different social contexts. Some children and young people will learn this through observation and participation in social contexts such as those with autism spectrum conditions. Some children and young people may struggle to pick up on social cues and will need extra support in learning how to adapt their behaviour to different social situations.</p>
<p><b>Make friends and maintain relationships</b></p> 	<p>In order to function as part of society, children and young people need to know how to form and maintain relationships and friendships. Schools and colleges support this by helping children and young people to form relationships and friendships with others in the setting. Some children and young people may have social and communication difficulties and may need extra support in learning how to form and maintain relationships.</p>

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#### 4.5 Revision questions

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1. Give **three** reasons why it is important that children and young people know behaviour to different social contexts.
2. Identify **two** individuals who may struggle to develop their impulse control.
3. Explain **two** reasons why it is important that children and young people learn focus on learning in educational settings.

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## Chapter 4.6: Why it is important to set and manage behaviour management policy and processes

Schools and other educational settings are expected to have a clear behaviour management policy in place, which is reviewed regularly, and to have clear and effective processes for managing the behaviour of children and young people while they are in the setting. There are several reasons why having effective behaviour management policies and procedures is of paramount importance when attempting to manage the behaviour of children and young people in schools and other settings.

### Clarifying the expected standard of behaviour

Having effective behaviour management policies and procedures in place in an educational setting ensures that the expected standard of behaviour is clarified not only for children and young people but also for parents and carers too.

#### Staff

In order to effectively manage the behaviour of children and young people across the entirety of an educational setting, it is essential that all staff understand and can follow the setting's behaviour policy, processes and procedures. This is because there needs to be consistency between members of staff as to how specific incidents are dealt with, and what consequences there are for any undesirable behaviours. Having a consistent approach ensures that any consequences for negative behaviours are proportionate and fair. Therefore, the expected standards of behaviour should be shared with all staff, and behaviour policies and processes should be discussed and assessed with staff.

There are a number of benefits to this:

- Big schools and educational settings will have a regular turnover of staff; regular discussions about behaviour policies and processes will ensure that all staff understand what is expected in terms of behaviour management.
- Having regular discussions about behavioural policies and processes will give staff a clear understanding of such systems.
- Staff can be actively involved in updating behaviour policies and procedures as they may no longer be effective in helping to manage the behaviour of children and young people. Behaviour policies and processes regularly need changing and updating to keep up with the demands of working with children and young people.
- Having a consistent whole setting or setting behaviour policy and series of processes ensures that every member can effectively deal with the behaviour of a child or young person, whether they can or not.

#### Children / young people

In order to behave in the socially acceptable ways required by schools and other educational settings, children and young people need to know what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour. The setting's behaviour policy and processes need to be regularly shared with children and young people, which takes into account their age and stage of development. Children and young people should be made aware of the consequences of carrying out undesirable behaviours at all times, and should be warned before they are given a consequence. For example, 'If you carry on with your choice of behaviour, you are choosing to accept X consequence.' This enables children and young people to make a choice about whether to carry out the unacceptable behaviour.

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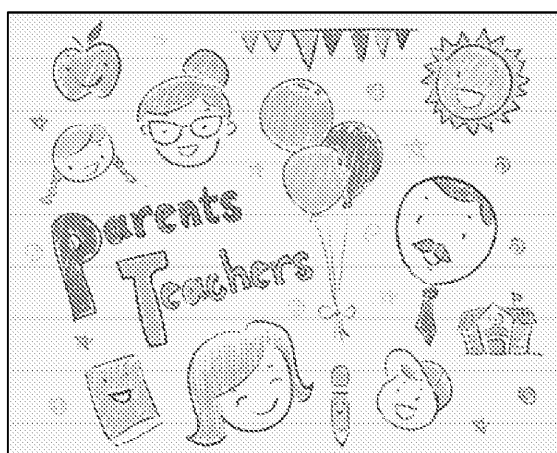


**Did you know?**

Whole-school or setting behaviour policies and processes won't necessarily work for every single child / young person in the building. Some individuals – for example, those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) – may need a bespoke behaviour management programme to help them to cope with the behavioural requirements of the setting. This may mean that their rewards and consequences differ from those for the other children / young people in the setting.

**Applied activity**

Work with a partner to discuss different ways in which behaviour policies can be shared with children and young people. You need to think carefully about the children / young people you are working with: not all forms of communication are appropriate for all people and all levels of understanding.

**Parents/carers**

Setting staff and parents/carers need to work together in order to help children and young people. In schools and other educational settings, it is important that the expected standards for behaviour in the school or setting is shared with all parents and carers. Parents and carers need to understand the rewards and consequences they can expect to receive and in what circumstances. It is important to be supportive of this. It is important to be aware of the school's behaviour policy from the earliest possible opportunity, preferably before the child begins to attend the school or setting. Display their behaviour policies on the school website.

**Did you know?**

Many schools and settings have a home-school agreement which all parties are expected to sign. This clearly sets out what is expected of the parent/carer and their child/ren and what is expected from the school or setting. Behavioural expectations, including incentive and reward systems and consequences, often form part of a home-school agreement.

## Giving children a chance to have input, result ownership and buy-in

If children and young people are actively involved in creating the behaviour policies and processes, they are more likely to follow these. Children and young people should always have a forum for putting forward their views, particularly when it comes to topics such as behaviour and rewards. This could be done through a **school council** or simply through a suggestion box. Children should also be given the opportunity to speak out when they think something is unfair; they should be given a voice in line with the school's behaviour policy. Of course, children and young people should be encouraged to give their views in a calm and acceptable way. When more than one child / young person has been involved in an incident, the children should be conferenced and everyone should have the right to give their version of the events which took place.

**School council:** comprises representatives from each class or year group; usually elected by the pupils. The school council is able to meet with the head teacher and/or other staff to discuss and represent the views of their fellow pupils.

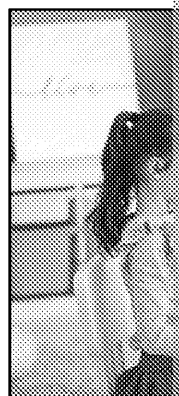
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## Helping to set realistic expectations for behaviour account an individual's age and stage of development

Having a whole setting or setting behaviour policy and set of processes ensures that realistic expectations are set for behaviour for all children / young people. It is important that this policy is developed by the staff and with the input of the children / young people of the setting in order for it to be appropriate for use in the school. It is inappropriate to adopt behaviour and incentive and recognition schemes wholesale from other schools without looking to see how they can be adapted to suit the setting they will be used in. While it is important to have a whole setting behaviour policy and processes, it is important that these systems are adapted to suit the age and stage of development of the children and young people in the setting.



### Research activity

Use the Inter policies of a settings. Wh differences c would you n the reading

It may be necessary to alter behaviour policies and processes to suit the youngest members of the school or setting or for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities; such alterations should be made as a whole staff to prevent people starting to do their 'own thing' in individual classrooms.

As mentioned earlier, it may be necessary for some children to have their own bespoke behaviour plan which is in line with the school's behaviour policy and processes; every member of staff should be aware of the plan for these individuals to ensure that consistency is achieved.

## Ensuring fairness in how children or young people are rewarded and sanctioned, and establishing a consistent behaviour management system

As already discussed, having a whole setting behaviour management policy and consistency of approach when dealing with behaviour and rewards and sanctions when we consider the very different backgrounds and starting points each practitioner brings, as well as their own individual beliefs and opinions regarding behaviour management, are essential. Many settings have worked in other settings with very different behaviour policies and systems. The setting behaviour systems are implemented and consistently reinforced in order to ensure effective behaviour management and to ensure that children and young people are treated fairly. This will also ensure that the school's rules are consistent for all pupils and members of staff. Having whole setting systems means that staff may be less familiar with – for example, children from another key stage may have to consult other staff members as to the correct reward or sanction to use. Having a consistent system where all staff can sanction or reward them will also ensure that children and young people are clear on the school's or setting's rules, wherever they are in the building and whichever member of staff they are working with.



### Did you know?

Many effective whole setting behaviour management systems focus on encouraging positive behaviour models for others as well as encouraging children to follow the setting's rules. For example, children are encouraged to open the door for others, for remembering to share.

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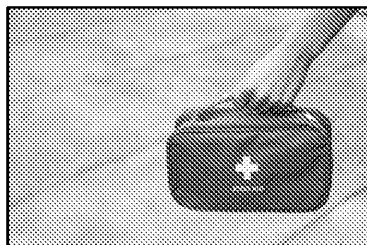


## Ensuring safety for all children and young people



### Did you know?

Everyone who works with children and young people has a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard their health and well-being.



One of the most important reasons for having rules in schools and other educational settings is to ensure the safety of everyone in the building. Many rules, such as requiring people not to run inside the school building, are in place to prevent accidents from happening. Therefore, behaviour management has paramount importance in ensuring that all children are safe while on school premises. As educational professionals, it is our paramount importance in ensuring that all children are safe while on school premises. As educational professionals, it is our paramount importance in ensuring that all children are safe while on school premises. As educational professionals, it is our paramount importance in ensuring that all children are safe while on school premises.

### Research activity

Visit Myth Busters Challenge Panel findings – Education ([hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk/mythbusters/)) [[hzed.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk/mythbusters/)]. This is the Health and Safety Executive's page dedicated to busting myths about health and safety in educational settings. Choose and read several of the case studies listed. This page is worth visiting periodically in order to keep up to date with the latest case studies.

## Providing opportunities to celebrate individual achievements

In addition to sanctions, rewards or incentives are an essential part of any effective behaviour management policies and systems. Rewards/incentives allow practitioners to reinforce positive behaviours and to celebrate the successes of individuals and groups. Rewards/incentives encourage children and young people to see that it is worth their while to follow the setting's rules and put more than the minimum effort into the tasks they undertake in school.

As mentioned in the previous section, in effective behaviour management systems, sanctions should also be used to reinforce behaviours which make pupils good role models, good manners and helping others. Examples of rewards/incentives which are often used are:

- **Team points**, where individuals earn and contribute team points to help the team. Because it is a team effort, members of the team can support each other in making extra efforts into tasks. One downside of this system is that team members may feel that individuals who don't often contribute team points to the group effort.
- **Stickers** are often a common form of reward in primary school settings. They can be given to staff in classrooms or as part of whole setting assemblies and other celebrations.
- **Raffle tickets** are a great incentive for promoting desired behaviours such as good manners. Hand out raffle tickets to individuals who display good manners (for example, good manners). All the raffle tickets get put into a box, and at the end of the week in a drawing of the box and the winning child receives a prize.
- Giving children and young people '**golden time**'.
- Many secondary schools now offer **prize draws** for children and young people with excellent attendance. Children with 100% attendance for the term or year are put into a prize draw and can win prizes such as tablet computers or gift vouchers. These schemes are designed to improve the school's overall attendance figures. The downside to such schemes is that not all individuals with perfect attendance will receive a prize; this could demotivate some children and young people as they may no longer see the point of continuing to make an effort if they are not going to be rewarded for it.

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Schools and other educational settings also need to find ways in which to celebrate and young people, without necessarily involving rewards, incentives or recognition.

There are a number of ways in which this could be done:

<p><b>Displaying work on the walls</b> of the classrooms and the corridors. This shouldn't just include the 'best' work from each class but should include examples of work from children which is the 'best' work they are capable of producing. This work might not necessarily be as good as that produced by other children, but it will represent a remarkable effort for that particular child.</p>	<p><b>Providing opportunities for people to share their work</b> they have tried particularly well in. It could be examples of homework or a great deal of effort in a particular homework task.</p>
<p><b>Encouraging children and young people to bring in their certificates</b> from outside interests such as gymnastics or swimming. These could be shared in a whole setting or class assembly.</p>	<p><b>Celebrating lifelong learning</b> members and individual achievements of people; they could be encouraged to take any new courses or to share these sorts of achievements with other children and young people in the setting.</p>

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## 4.6 Revision questions

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1. Explain **two** reasons why it is important to clarify the expected standard of behaviour for staff.
2. Describe how behaviour management policies and processes ensure the safety of children and young people.
3. Explain how whole setting behaviour management policies and processes can support effective behaviour management.
4. Give examples of **three** different reward, incentive or recognition systems used in other educational settings.
5. Identify **two** ways in which children and young people can be given a voice within behaviour management policies and processes.

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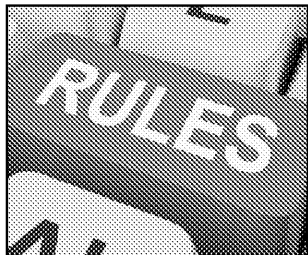
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## Chapter 4.7a: How home, family circumstances can affect young people's behaviour

There are a number of different external circumstances which can affect how a young person behaves in an educational setting. We may not be able to affect these circumstances greatly but understanding them can help us to better understand what is happening to the child or young person and help them to make better choices about how they choose to behave. Having this level of understanding allows us to have greater empathy for the children and young people in our care and can help us to understand why they make the behavioural choices they make.

### How parental expectations can affect behaviour



Parental or carer expectations (or lack of them) can have a significant impact on children's and young people's behaviour. In homes where there are clear expectations and children and young people know exactly what is expected of them, they are more likely to succeed and to behave in socially acceptable ways. Having a good parent or carer is also important here; seeing adults having respect for children and young people are more likely to follow the same rules. Children and young people who live in homes where the adults have a positive attitude towards education and doing well at school are more likely to succeed in their future in terms of work. This type of parent or carer is more likely to be supportive, encourage good behavioural choices in the setting and is more likely to want to work with school staff to ensure the best outcomes for their child/ren.

Despite the above, having expectations which are too high for a child or young person to live up to can have a negative effect on their behaviour. Setting impossibly high standards, which the child or young person struggles to meet, can have a negative impact on the individual's behaviour. These children and young people are likely to rebel against the strict standards which they are expected to live up to and may have the feeling that they can do nothing right for the parent or carer. Ultimately, parents and carers having these kinds of unrealistic expectations can have a profound effect on the child's or young person's mental health. It is important to cultivate a relationship with this type of parent or carer, however difficult this may be, and to try to help them understand the negative impact they may be having on their child's mental health; ultimately, they may end up having the opposite effect on the child or young person to the one which they desired. It is not wrong to have high, realistic expectations of success for children, but these expectations need to be realistic and the child or young person needs to be supported in the right way to achieve these expectations.

#### Case study

Ruby is in Year 10. She generally behaves well in all lessons. Her teacher has set a rule; this rule needs to be followed completely. This information is given to Ruby's class.

#### Applied

What do you think Ruby's teacher should do? Ruby's teacher should investigate the situation and see if the rule is realistic and if it is, Ruby's teacher should ensure that the rule is followed.

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Conversely, some parents and carers have few, or no, expectations for their children in terms of behaviour or achievement. In fact, they may take very little interest in their child's school life at all and are unlikely to be supportive of staff efforts to engage them in their child's education. These parents are among the hardest to engage, but it is essential that we make the effort to do so in order to achieve the best outcomes for the children and young people in our care. Such parents and carers may have had extremely negative experiences themselves at school and may find school staff and school buildings incredibly intimidating; they are likely to make excuses not to attend meetings or just fail to turn up at all. It is important that we do all we can as school staff to try to overcome any barriers present and to, hopefully, get parents and carers on board with supporting their children educationally. Some parents may simply not understand what is required of them in terms of supporting their child with their school life, and this is why it is important that schools and other educational settings share their expectations of parents and carers clearly at the outset.

## How consistency of care can affect behaviour

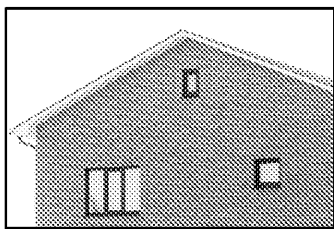
Children and young people thrive most effectively when they receive consistency of care. Consistency of care is where the main adults who care for the child or young person remain unchanged throughout their childhood and adolescence. Unfortunately, this is not always the case for all children and young people. In many circumstances where the adults in a child's or young person's life may change on a regular basis. Examples of the ways in which the adults in charge of a child's or young person's life may change include (but are not limited to):

Possible change in the consistency of care for a child or young person	Possible changes to the child's or young person's life
<b>Divorce and/or relationship breakdown</b>	The child or young person may have to get used to living in a new home, moving between the care of two parents who have separated. The child or young person may have to get used to living in a different home. Furthermore, they may have to adapt to a change in the family structure.
<b>New partners coming into their parents' or carers' lives</b>	Being introduced to the new partner(s) of a parent or carer. The child or young person may have to adjust to. The new partner may also bring into the equation. Additionally, some parents/carers may have new partners and this can be especially difficult for children and young people.
<b>Being removed from the care of their parents/carers and being placed in foster care or being adopted</b>	If a child's or young person's parent(s) or carer(s) is/are unable to provide adequate care for them then these children may be removed from their parents/carers and placed in foster care. This may mean that the child or young person is placed in foster parents or placed in a residential care setting with other children. These children may or may not be able to see their parents/carers. The circumstances surrounding their removal from the family may be that this removal should be permanent, a child or young person may be adopted; they will no longer have contact with their biological parents.
<b>Being moved around different foster homes and/or group homes</b>	Fostering a child or young person can be extremely challenging. The relationship between foster carer and child / young person may not develop in the first place. Or it may be that the child or young person does not get on with the other children in the foster home. These reasons may mean that the child or young person needs to be moved to a different foster home or residential care facility, and this can sometimes happen to a child or young person, through no fault of their own.

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All of the circumstances outlined on the previous page can have a profound impact on how a person grows and develops emotionally. Understandably, they may be incredibly difficult for them to find themselves in, and school and setting staff may witness the child or young person's unwanted behaviours as a result of this. Children and young people who are going through these experiences will need extra support in school to help deal with them and to help them to progress in a positive rather than a negative way.



**Residential care:** this is where children or young people live together in group care and are looked after by adults. These residential care homes can vary in size and the number of children or young people they can accommodate.

## How culture and community can affect behaviour

The community we grow up in and the culture our parents belong to can affect the way we behave and other adults we meet during our lives.

### Differential treatment of males and females

In some cultures and communities, boys are valued over girls and, consequently, there may be more of any efforts to chastise their son or to encourage him to follow school rules. For example, in some cultures, attitudes of some community members, women may be valued less than men and the role of the father in the family. As a result of these views, a child may be seen to be the role of the father in the family. As a result of these views, a child may struggle with accepting the authority of a female teacher, and their parents may struggle with accepting the authority of a female teacher. Although we must respect the views of others and the values of different cultures, child views which value males above females need to be challenged in the right way. The parents and the child to explain how **all** children are expected to behave in school. All children, regardless of their gender, are entitled to the same level of respect.

### Cultural views regarding education

Not all cultures and communities place the same value on children and young people accessing education. One example of this is the Traveller, Roma and Gypsy (TRG) communities, where children and young people rarely attend school beyond primary age, and whose educational outcomes are generally poor at all stages of education.<sup>6</sup> TRG communities are traditionally **nomadic** (although not all families are so) and have strong family ties and often large extended families. 'The term "Gypsies and Travellers" is difficult to define as it does not constitute a single, homogeneous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including: Romany Gypsies, Scottish Gypsy Travellers and Irish Travellers.'<sup>7</sup>

**Nomadic:** this is where people move their home (often a caravan) and live in different places for differing lengths of time.

Even while enrolled at primary schools, TRG children regularly have extended periods where they do not attend school. This may be so that they can travel with families for work or other activities, or it may be for other reasons. Because people regularly have periods where they do not attend school, it is important for teachers and other school staff to obtain the best possible information about the child's background and needs.

It is vital that schools and other educational settings work to develop good links with TRG communities. The best outcomes are to be achieved for the children and young people from these communities if they develop trusting relationships with members of TRG communities, but it is important that schools and other educational settings also work to ensure that all children and young people have the same opportunities to learn and develop.

<sup>6</sup> The Traveller Movement (2015) – Improving the education outcomes for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils – [Pupils-2015-Briefing.pdf \(travellermovement.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> House of Commons Library (2019) – Research Briefing: Gypsies and Travellers – <https://commons library.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cr2019-01-08/>

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### Research activity

Many local authorities run Educational Mentoring and Achievement Services (EMTAS) in schools and other educational settings. Find out about your local EMTAS and the types of support they can offer. You can also find out more about what is possible to request to speak to your local team for more information.

## How adult and child relationships and interactions affect behaviour

The development of appropriate relationships and interactions between children and adults can affect how they choose to behave in school and other educational settings and the choices they make as adults. It is essential that children and young people form strong, positive relationships with adults they work with in schools and other settings.

### Forming appropriate relationships with adults in the home

It is essential that children and young people are able to form warm, loving, reciprocal relationships with the adults who care for them in the home. Where children and young people have been able to form supportive, loving relationships with the adults in the home, they are more likely to be able to regulate their own emotions effectively and are likely to be happier individuals. Consequently, they are more likely to conform to the behavioural requirements of educational settings and society as a whole.

On the other hand, children who are constantly exposed to aggression and negativity at home are more likely to develop low self-esteem and will struggle with being able to regulate their own emotions. They are unlikely to be able to conform to behavioural requirements in educational settings.

### Forming strong relationships with adults in educational settings



It is also of vital importance that children and young people are able to form strong bonds, where appropriate, with adults in other educational settings. Where children and young people in the setting are more likely to be able to form strong relationships with adults, they are more likely to be young people undergoing difficult times. Where children and young people trust the adults in the setting to develop a trusting relationship with them (in school or setting), they are more likely to be able to regulate their own emotions and to conform to their home circumstances and to the requirements of educational settings. Trust is an important factor in the development of strong relationships.

Where children and young people do not trust adults, they are more likely to be young people; if a child or young person trusts an adult, they are more likely to be able to regulate their own emotions and to conform to the requirements of educational settings. Furthermore, when a trusting relationship is formed between an adult and a child or young person in a school, it may be possible to support them in managing their emotions and in really getting to the bottom of the reasons why they are choosing to behave in a certain way.

**Safeguarding:** the action we take as educational practitioners to protect children and young people from all kinds of harm and to promote their welfare at all times.

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## Chapter 4.7b: How practitioners can use information about individual's home, family and care circumstances to anticipate and deal effectively with unwanted behaviour

In Chapter 4.7a we started to look at how the different homes and communities that children and young people come from can influence the ways in which they behave. We also looked at the challenges that children and young people face when they have experienced a lack of consistency in the care they receive. In this chapter, we will explore how collecting a range of information about an individual's home and care circumstances can help school and setting staff not only to anticipate and deal effectively with unwanted behaviour but to support children and young people to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes during their time in education.

### Working with parents/carers to help them find solutions and advice

Sometimes, the best way in which we can help children and young people is to first help their parents or carers. This is because, as discussed in Chapter 4.7a, the ways in which children and young people behave may be as a direct result of their home circumstances. For example, you may come across a child who is persistently late for school. The simplest thing to do would be to chastise the parents or carers of the child and to explain to them why it is important that their child is not late for school. However, this does not address the root cause of why the family are regularly late to school.

In these circumstances it is important to try to build a relationship with one of the parents or carers and to find out the reasons for the persistent lateness. For example, it may be that the family have moved out of the area and are struggling to get the child to school on time because of a reliance on public transport. Perhaps the family need support in moving to a closer school, or they may need support in getting help with paying for bus fares.

We must never assume we know what the problem is without asking or we risk alienating the family altogether. These types of parents and carers are often adults who have a deep understanding of their own experiences; we need to do everything we can to establish a rapport with them. Working with parents and carers in order to ensure the best outcomes for the children and young people is essential. That, not having had the best childhoods themselves, some parents and carers need support to develop the skills. Again, this is not something to be assumed and needs handling in a particular way. Some parents and carers may be appreciative of support with things such as setting boundaries and managing behaviour in the home. There are a number of parenting courses which schools are accredited to run with parents and carers.

#### Research activity

There are a number of approved parenting courses which can be run by schools. Some of these courses help provide parents and carers with skills to help them with parenting their children. One of these courses is the Solihull Approach [[zzed.uk/11783-solihull](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-solihull)]; visit the website and explore this strategy which is designed to help parents and carers to improve their parenting. Are there any other initiatives/courses which are designed to do the same thing?

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## Sharing information with relevant colleagues agency work and early interventions

It is important that information about children and young people is shared with relevant agencies where appropriate. These agencies may include the school nursing service, health visitors (depending on the age of the child), children's social care, the police, medical staff and the school/s which siblings may attend. Inter-agency collaboration is encouraged between school staff and other agencies in order to best safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who may be known to them. If there is a safeguarding issue, it is not necessary to receive permission from parents or carers in order to contact outside agencies; however, in all other circumstances it is necessary to obtain permission from parents and carers before sharing information with other agencies.

Early intervention is key if serious safeguarding issues are to be avoided. In other relationships with carers and parents as soon as issues start to arise will help to prevent deteriorating. You must not, however, wait if there is an urgent safeguarding matter must be referred straight away to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** or the **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**; this will depend on the school's or setting's safeguarding policy, which must be followed. It may be that you are required to first pass any concerns on to the class teacher. If your concerns have been taken seriously you must escalate your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their deputy.

### Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

this is the person who is responsible for all safeguarding arrangements in the school, setting or other educational establishment. This role may have a different name depending on the local authority in which the school or setting is situated; for example, Child Protection Officer or Designated Safeguarding Officer.

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL):** this person fulfils the same role as the DSL in their absence. Safeguarding matters can be taken to them in the absence of the DSL.


### Case study

*You are working in a classroom when you notice that one child seems to have bruises on his torso.*

### Applied activity

Once you have noticed these bruises, what should you do next? You must follow your setting's safeguarding or child protection policy and guidance. If you have not yet been trained, it is important that you ask to see the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## Supporting individuals through planned and unplanned transitions

 **Transitions:** changes in a young person's or child's life which are significant to them. These changes may be big or small and may affect them in different ways.

Some of the **transitions** which can occur in a person's life may be smaller in nature and have a smaller impact on the individual's life; however, some are larger and could cause major disruption to their life. Without knowing a child well, it is difficult to know how a young person will respond to any change. It is important that we get to know the children and young people we are supporting.

We can prepare them for and support them through a variety of transitions which they will experience as they are growing up. Some children and young people may take in their stride events which others of the same age, while others may seem to react disproportionately to events. There may be very good reasons why children or young people react in the way they do. We must adapt our response accordingly.

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Forming a good working relationship with parents and carers will mean that they when something of significance is taking place in their child's life, meaning that you or young person through the changes which they are experiencing.

Examples of transitions which children may experience include:

- Parents separating from each other and/or divorcing
- Parents forming relationships with new partners
- Moving home
- Moving schools – this includes when children have to move to secondary school (from nursery to primary school) as this can be very distressing for some children and they need to be sufficiently and supported with this
- Moving classes within a school and/or changing teachers
- Some children may struggle if a new child enters the class
- Bereavement
- Being taken into care
- Starting puberty or experiencing other emotional or bodily changes
- Starting or changing medication – this may include children or young people with conditions such as ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)

There are many more transitions which may occur in a child's or young person's life; some transitions everyone will experience, whereas other transitions are only experienced by a few individuals. As already mentioned, whatever the transition the child or young person is experiencing, whether planned or unplanned, big or small, it is vital that setting staff support them as they go through these transitions. Working with parents and carers, where possible, is always a vital part of this process.

## Informing a behaviour management plan, and tracking individual behaviour targets

When a child or young person is struggling to manage their own behaviour in a school or setting, it might be necessary to implement a behaviour management plan. A behaviour management plan might be known by a number of names, depending on the school or setting, and is sometimes known as a behaviour support plan. It is important to remember that many children and young people find schools and other educational settings incredibly challenging places to be, and it is our job to support them to cope with the challenges they are likely to come across when accessing their education. As mentioned in previous sections in this chapter, we can support children and young people best when we understand their background and the challenges they may be facing outside of school; therefore, we need to get to know the people in our care and use this knowledge to help inform any behaviour support plan we develop for them. It is also essential that children and young people (where age and developmentally appropriate) are involved in the creation of their own behaviour support plans; this way they are more likely to buy into the process and the plan is likely to be more successful. Similarly, if possible, it is useful to involve parents and carers in the process of producing and carrying out behaviour management/support plans.

The children and young people who may need a behaviour management/support plan are often those who do not respond to whole setting or whole-class rewards/incentives and sanctions schemes do not have a bespoke plan to help them learn to manage their own behaviour.

Before we look at what sorts of things can be included in a behaviour support/management plan, it is important to note that this will not be a suitable approach for all children and young people. It is not an inappropriate strategy for a child or young person with special educational needs. This is because, in some cases, their behaviour may be directly linked to their communication difficulties and is not within their control.



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### Did you know?

One-page profiles are a useful way of pre-empting the need to use behaviour support/management plans. They summarise a child's or young person's likes and dislikes – and any 'need to knows' about them – on a single page. One-page profiles can be a useful transition tool for all children, not just those with behavioural issues or SEND. They allow staff to start to get to know children and young people before they move into their group or class.

### Applied activity

Find out as much as you can about one-page profiles by researching the website One page profile [https://www.onepageprofile.co.uk/]. The website One page profile [https://www.onepageprofile.co.uk/] is a great resource. It provides some examples of one-page profiles that have been developed. You will have found out all about the one-page profile for a child or young person you are working with. Ensure you have the necessary permissions before using a one-page profile for a child or young person.

## What should a behaviour support/management plan include?

There are no hard and fast rules for what a behaviour management/support plan should include, and the contents may change depending on the educational setting or school. However, the following is a list of some things which may be useful to include in a plan. It is important to remember that a behaviour management/support plan should always be tailored to individual requirements and should be changed and adapted regularly as it evolves on its success or otherwise.

### Possible features of a behaviour management/support plan (by no means an exhaustive list)

<b>Possible triggers</b>	Events or actions which may cause the child's or young person's behaviour to deteriorate, and, therefore, cause their behaviour to deteriorate. If these triggers can be identified and minimised, this will help to prevent a potential <b>meltdown</b> by the child or young person. Of course not all triggers can be avoided, particularly those connected with the child's work, etc.
<b>Likes and dislikes</b>	These can be used as a general introduction to the child or young person. It is a useful tool when finding ways to communicate with the individual. For example, if the child or young person likes horses, this may be a topic you can use in conversation and, thereby, get to know them better. As we have seen, forming effective relationships with children and young people is a key part of supporting them better.
<b>Strategies for support</b>	This will include strategies for supporting the child or young person when they are overwhelmed if they have been exposed to one of their triggers. Strategies will much depend on the individual and, therefore, should be developed for the individual child or young person and all the adults who work with them. For example, if a young person will not be able to cope with adults talking to them in a group and this may cause them further stress; therefore, a key strategy might be to ensure the individual should not be spoken to until they are much calmer.
<b>Warning signs</b>	The strategies given for support might be split into sections depending on the level of anxiety/meltdown the child or young person is at. Different strategies might be used depending on the behaviour being exhibited by the child or young person. A behaviour management/support plan should include warning signs to look for which indicate when the child or young person is at an early stage of anxiety or has entered a meltdown; therefore, indicate which strategies it is appropriate to use with the individual. The following is a good example of how to produce an effective behaviour management/support plan which includes warning signs and strategies [https://www.zigzag.co.uk/11783-1/].
<b>Individual behaviour targets</b>	For some children and young people it may be appropriate to set individual behaviour targets as part of their behaviour support plan. These should be set with the child or young person and should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time sensitive). Individual behaviour targets will not be appropriate for all children with behavioural difficulties.

**Meltdown:** a term often used to denote when a child or young person has become overloaded and is no longer able to respond appropriately to the situation. At this point, the child or young person is often experiencing a fight, flight or freeze response and, therefore, the child or young person may respond in a number of different ways.

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## 4.7 Revision questions

1. What is meant by 'consistency of care' when referring to children and young people?
2. Describe how a lack of 'consistency of care' can affect a child's or young person's behaviour.
3. Explain **two** ways in which culture and community can affect children's and young people's behaviour.
4. Read the following case material:

*Dav is 11 and has recently entered the Year 6 class at his local primary school. He has attended another school in the area and has only very recently transferred. At his previous school, Dav was very quiet in lessons; however, he is becoming increasingly disruptive. He swears at staff members and other children. The other day he became angry and threw a chair across the classroom.*

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Suggest **two** reasons why Dav might be behaving in this way in the classroom.
- (b) Explain how/where you could find out more information about Dav in order to manage his behaviour in the classroom.
- (c) The class teacher has asked you to work with Dav and the other classroom staff to develop a behaviour management plan for him.

Give **three** pieces of information you might include in a behaviour management plan for Dav.

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## Chapter 4.8: How children / young people manage positive and negative verbal and non-verbal communication from adults

We regularly communicate and interact with people in a wide range of both verbal and non-verbal communication with adults but with the children and young people in our care. Most of this communication is positive, however, we also often communicate our feelings without intending to and this can be negative. Therefore, it is essential that all our communication with children and young people is positive so that we don't cause them to react negatively. Some children and young people have experienced negative communication when communicating with adults outside of the setting and, therefore, we need to be aware of this with all children and young people and think carefully about how our verbal and non-verbal communication affect them. There are several forms of communication, both verbal and non-verbal, and we need to be aware of these when dealing with children and young people.

### Tone

The **tone of voice** we choose to adopt when speaking to children and young people can greatly affect how they respond to what is being said. If a child or young person is emotionally overwhelmed and you choose to raise your voice or use an aggressive tone, then this is likely to make the situation worse and the individual may become aggressive and/or it may take longer to calm them down. In this situation, it is better to use a calm or neutral tone of voice and to speak slowly. As mentioned in Chapter 4.7a, in some situations it is better not to speak at all and wait for the individual to calm down as their anxiety may be making it difficult for them to speak. Furthermore, if you are anxious about the situation you find yourself in (e.g. a young person is displaying threatening behaviour), this can be transmitted through your tone of voice. To help calm the situation, it may be better to leave the speaking to another adult who is calm and composed, take a deep breath and try to calm yourself down before attempting to speak to the child or young person.

**Tone of voice** is the way we speak in a particular situation to convey what we mean.

On the other hand, using a firm and confident tone of voice when dealing with children and young people could mean that they are more likely to follow your instructions and to accept your decisions. Speaking in a respectful tone of voice at all times to the children and young people in your care will encourage them to speak to others in the same way; this is particularly important when they are in the same example in their own home. It is better not to shout at children and young people as this has a negative impact on their self-esteem. Furthermore, some individuals will experience difficulties in their home environments and, therefore, will pay little to no attention to shouting. A good rule of thumb, if you need to shout you have generally lost control of yourself and it is not the most effective way of encouraging desired behaviours in the classroom.

### Proximity

Our **proximity** to others as we interact with them can be a vital factor in ensuring that they respond positively to us. If you enter a child's or young person's personal space while you are angry with them and/or chastising them, this can be incredibly intimidating for them, particularly if you are significantly taller than them or if they are seated and you are standing. They are unlikely to be listening to what you are trying to tell them if they are fearful about what is happening. On the other hand, we may be able to reassure children or comfort them by speaking in a calm and comforting tone of voice in relatively close proximity to them. It can also be more reassuring for children and young people if you speak to them while on the same level as them; for example, when you are both sitting down.

**Proximity** is the distance between you and the person you are communicating with.

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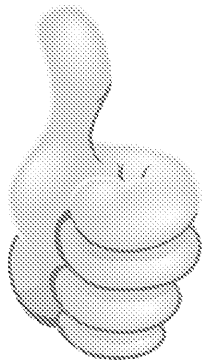


### Did you know?

Some children and young people may be uncomfortable being in close proximity as a result of their experiences outside the school or setting. For example, some children may have suffered from abuse in the past or may be suffering from some form of abuse now. The boundaries of these individuals in terms of proximity. However, it may be that with the support of these individuals, they may be able to tolerate trusted adults in closer proximity to them.

## Gesture

Using a **gesture** correctly and in a positive way can be a very useful non-verbal tool in an educational setting. Once you have developed a good relationship with children, a nod of the head can be enough to let an individual know that they need to stop what they are doing. A thumbs up can be a way of giving approval; for example, a thumbs up or a nod of the head could let a child know they are on the right track. Gestures can also be incredibly helpful when a child or young person with an individual with EAL (English as an additional language) enters the classroom for the first time. It is a relatively non-threatening way for a child or young person to express their needs and feelings.



On the other hand, certain gestures can also be quite threatening if used incorrectly. For example, we can point to indicate or direct a child's attention towards a specific object. Used in this way, combined with a stern expression, pointing can be a useful tool to help those with limited language. However, it can also be quite intimidating, especially if you are pointing at a child. Combining this with close proximity to the individual and an angry expression. It is not recommended to use pointing in this way as it can negatively impact a person's self-esteem and/or can be viewed as a sign of aggression. In the same way; for example, the child or young person then demonstrates their feelings. Furthermore, pointing at someone is unlikely to defuse an already tense situation.

**Gesture:** a movement of a body part, usually the hand or the head, to show an intention or feeling.

## Body language

Body language is a non-verbal form of communication which many of us use on a daily basis without realising it. The correct and appropriate use of body language is of immense importance in education, not only for ourselves but for others, but particularly so when dealing with children and young people. When we are relaxed and happy, our ideas we tend to have very 'open' body language – our body and face are relaxed. On the other hand, when we are feeling threatened or angry, we often have 'closed' body language. We might fold our arms across our body, or we might clench our hands into fists; our face will show a stern expression. Closed or negative body language can be very threatening to the children and young people we are working with. It can make us intimidating and unapproachable, particularly when coupled with angry or negative gestures. It could also make the child or young person more aggressive, more defensive, or worse, and will certainly not help in trying to calm them down. Therefore, even when working with young people in a potentially volatile or aggressive situation, it is important to keep our body language as open as possible. This can be a difficult thing to achieve and may be something you need to work on.

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## 4.8 Revision questions

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1. Give **two** reasons why it is important to use 'open' body language when dealing with young people.
2. Explain how pointing at something or someone can be both a negative and a positive thing.
3. Give **one** reason why a child or young person might not be comfortable with a teacher or adult talking to them.
4. Explain why it is better to use a calm tone of voice when attempting to calm someone who is emotionally overwhelmed.

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## Chapter 4.9: How and why practitioners use positive approaches to motivate children's / young people's behaviour and achievement

There are a number of positive approaches which can be used with children and young people to motivate their behaviour, attainment and achievement in schools and other educational settings. This chapter is on the word 'positive'; while it is sometimes necessary to issue sanctions in line with the school's behaviour policy, positive approaches can be much more effective in achieving the desired levels of behaviour, attainment and achievement.

### Incentive and recognition schemes

Having effective **incentive** and **recognition** schemes in place can help to motivate children and young people to aspire to achieve the school's or setting's standards in terms of behaviour, attainment and achievement. If a child or young person sees another person receiving a reward for a piece of work or for demonstrating a desired behaviour, they are likely to be motivated to try to achieve this reward/incentive for themselves.

Therefore, any rewards/incentives on offer must seem desirable to the children and young people they are being offered to; therefore, the types of reward on offer are likely to differ depending, among other factors, on the age of the children or young people in the school.

Rewards/incentives can be offered for any number of purposes, including to reward effort in with homework, being a school role model, always being punctual to lessons etc. The range of incentive and recognition schemes possible to use is limited only by your imagination. There are many ready-made incentive and recognition schemes systems from one of the many educational publishers which exist.

Incentive and recognition schemes	Commentary
<b>Stickers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stickers are perhaps more appropriate for children of primary age; older children may be unimpressed to receive one.</li> <li>One of the benefits of using stickers is that they can be given out anywhere, so it doesn't matter whether the child is in their class or not.</li> <li>There are many educational resource companies which sell reward stickers for use in schools.</li> <li>Stickers can be given out spontaneously, or some schools have 'sticker assemblies' where children and young people are celebrated for their achievements that week and awarded a sticker.</li> </ul>
<b>Raffle tickets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be given by any adult in the school community for positive behaviour (decided as a staff).</li> <li>Raffle tickets can be collected in once a week and then taken to a raffle assembly and the child or young person is able to choose from a range of appropriate prizes.</li> </ul>
<b>Points system / House points / Team points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Again, points can be awarded by any adult in the school community.</li> <li>Points may be exchanged for prizes, depending on the scheme. There may be a catalogue of prizes for the children or young people to choose from.</li> <li>Pupils can also work in teams to collect points towards a prize. These teams may be just within one classroom, or within a year group.</li> <li>House points tend to be a whole setting initiative, with all children being allocated to one of four or more houses. Points are then added up at the end of the term for a joint reward.</li> </ul>

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The main thing to consider when using an incentive and recognition scheme is that it must be used consistently throughout the school or setting. Whole setting incentive and recognition schemes are ideal, as opposed to each class having its own individual scheme, as they mean that any adult can reward any child or young person if they are exhibiting a desired attitude or behaviour. The sorts of things which should be rewarded should be discussed regularly in staff meetings so that everyone is on the same page. There should also be a discussion about administering rewards fairly and consistently and trying to find ways to reward less-motivated members of the school community.

Rewards are a form of **extrinsic motivation** and there are many educators and other individuals who work with children who disapprove of using incentive and recognition schemes. However, when considering this, it is important to remember that not all children and young people come from the same sort of background, community or household. Some individuals may start school already having high levels of intrinsic motivation, due to the support and encouragement they have received at home. However, other children and young people may have low levels of **intrinsic motivation** for many different reasons and may need to be given rewards as a form of extrinsic motivation in order to one day develop their own intrinsic motivation.

**Extrinsic**  
external  
individual  
to carry  
in a spe  
**Intrinsic**  
inside us  
or do we  
want to  
rewarded

## Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with children / young people

The importance of establishing and maintaining positive relationships with children was discussed in previous chapters. This, of all the strategies mentioned in this chapter, is the most powerful force for encouraging children and young people to change their behaviour and attitudes in schools and other educational settings. Positive relationships can, at times, be seen in children and young people who will sometimes do things for adults even though they do not have the motivation to do things for themselves. The key to forming good relationships is to not expect a child or young person to show respect for you if you do not show respect for them. This relationship should not be confused with friendship, but the child or young person should understand that you are an adult who can be trusted within the bounds of what is set out in the school's or setting's safeguarding policy.

As mentioned in Chapter 4.7, it is important to get to know the children and young people, their likes and dislikes and really begin to understand what makes them 'tick'. Once you find you have time for them and that you want to get to know them, they will begin to trust you; this will form the basis of a trusting and positive relationship which can then succeed. It is important to remember that not all children and young people will find it easy to develop a trusting, positive relationship with an adult; this particularly applies to children and young people who have suffered from abuse and/or other forms of childhood trauma. That is not to say that it is impossible to form positive relationships with such individuals, just that it will take much more time, patience and care; these are often the children and young people who need to form a positive relationship with an adult the most.



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## Appropriate praise and formative feedback to young people improve

It is, of course, important that children and young people receive praise in response to their efforts in school and other educational settings; however, this praise needs to be targeted appropriately if it is to have any impact on the individuals it is aimed at. Similarly, we need to be careful about the words and phrases we use to praise children and young people if this praise is to be meaningful and have the desired effect. Furthermore, we can help children and young people to improve their academic performance and social skills with the use of well-targeted constructive feedback. The use of appropriate praise and **formative feedback** does not come naturally to every adult, and some school staff may need to receive training and support in order to be able to utilise these methods effectively.

### Appropriate praise

Appropriate praise is targeted and specific and avoids general phrases such as 'Good job'. While such phrases may have a short-term impact on some children and young people, they are unlikely to result in terms of enacting long-term change in a child or young person or to reward desired behaviour. In fact, some children and young people may find such phrases to be rather patronising and having a negative effect on some individuals.

Furthermore, such phrases don't give the child or young person any idea what it is they did well or correctly; therefore, it will be difficult for them to replicate their behaviour or actions in the future. Appropriate praise needs to be specific in terms of what it is about the child's or young person's behaviour or work that you like, and why.

Here are some examples of appropriate praise which can be used with children and/or young people. Each example is designed to explain exactly why something is being liked and/or praised. These can be made specific to the subject and/or task which the child or young person is involved with:

- I really like the way you have used red paint to paint the sunset; it's really bright and bold.
- Thank you for holding open the door for me.
- I really appreciate your good manners when you are speaking to adults.
- You were a good friend to Sarah at playtime when she had no one else to play with.
- You are always on time and well-prepared for lessons and I appreciate that.
- You put such a lot of effort into your homework and it really shows in the quality of the work you have produced.
- You were able to hold your balance for such a long time – well done.
- The speech punctuation you used in your story was incredibly accurate.

#### **Applied activity**

Make a list of praise words or phrases you and/or your colleagues regularly use with children and young people in your setting. Now reflect on the list you have made; do these words and phrases represent appropriate praise? If so, why? If not, why not? How can you change some of them so that they represent appropriate praise? Practise using some of these appropriate phrases the next time you work with children or young people.

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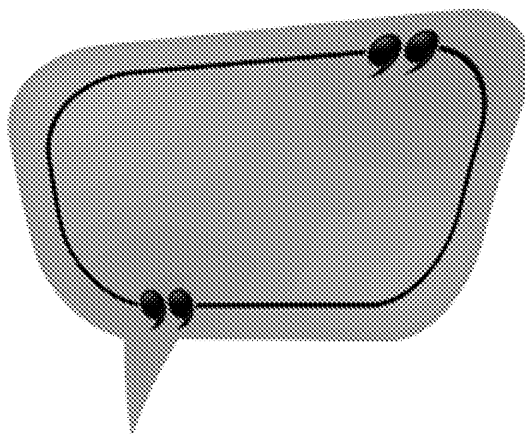


## Formative feedback to help children / young people improve

As we have seen, appropriate praise is similar to formative feedback; in each of them, feedback is given in the form of positive feedback. However, if we combine this type of praise with constructive feedback, this can really help the child or young person to improve their effort and performance. In this way, feedback can be helpful and is unlikely to upset the child or young person; it does not put the child or young person off from trying in the future. Here are some examples of feedback that can be used constructively with children and/or young people to help them improve. They can be adapted for giving feedback in many different subjects and tasks; they should take into account the purpose and/or objective of the lesson or task and give the suggestions which reflect this.

The best way to give formative feedback is when it is accompanied by appropriate praise.

- I really liked the way you remembered to use a full stop at the end of every sentence. It would be even better if you remembered to use a capital letter to start each of your sentences.
- I like the way you remember to use your manners with all the adults. It would be good if you remember to use your manners with your friends in the classroom too.
- You did some really detailed research on the Egyptians for your homework. Next time, try to put the information you found into your own words.
- Well done, you ran that lap extremely quickly. I wonder whether you can keep up your time?
- I like the way you have used red in your sunset painting. Next time, perhaps try using different shades of red in your painting; I could show you how to mix them.



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## Chapter 4.10: How and why practitioners strategies for setting clear expectations

Children and young people need to be given precise and detailed information about how to behave in school or other educational settings at specific times or on specific occasions. They need to be provided with clear expectations of behaviour. In schools and classrooms, children and young people are provided with clear expectations of behaviour and where these expectations are not made clear and/or are not adhered to in a fair and consistent way. There are standards of behaviour tend to be a great deal better than in schools and settings where they are not. Setting clear expectations of behaviour in schools and other educational settings are outlined below.

### Establishing a structured approach

The majority of children and young people in a school or educational setting will be happiest and feel most secure when there is a consistent routine to the day and week. In fact, this will also help those children and young people with conditions such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as these individuals tend to thrive when they have a predictable routine. It is important that this routine is visible in an accessible way to all the children or young people who need to access it. For older children (those in **mainstream** secondary education) who may visit a number of classrooms for lessons each week, this may mean them having their own individual timetable, which they can access, in their planners or journals. For very young children and/or those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), this may mean having a visual timetable of the day displayed in the classroom, usually with pictures or symbols which are easy for the children to understand; this would need changing on a daily basis.

In addition to having a weekly and/or daily routine, it is important that children and young people understand how they are expected to behave and what they are expected to do at any given point in time. For example, young children may understand that when they hear a certain song in the classroom, or when someone rings a bell, this is their signal to tidy their toys away and put everything back where it belongs. This does not happen instantaneously in classrooms; it takes a while for classroom staff before children know what is expected of them at all times. Having a consistent routine at the start of each day can help them to feel settled, safe and ready for school. Schools often have a time when young people are with their tutor groups at the start of the day where they feel settled and to manage attendance matters before they are sent off to lessons.

### Setting age- and stage-appropriate ground rules

Any behavioural expectations which are set by adults in a setting should reflect the capabilities of the children or young people who are expected to adhere to them. For example, a 5-year-old is not expected to behave in the same way as a 10-year-old and, therefore, expectations need to reflect this. If we set unrealistic expectations of behaviour, children and young people are unlikely to be able to adhere to them and, consequently, individuals and chaos in the setting or school will follow. As the children and/or young people's capabilities and behavioural expectations should change and grow with them. Where possible, children and young people should develop their rules and behavioural expectations in conjunction with the adults who have helped to set the rules and expectations, they are more likely to adhere to them. Children and young people understand what will happen to them if they break a rule or set of expectations in any way. It is, therefore, important to make any sanctions clear to children and young people. Similarly, they also need to be made aware of any incentive and recognition schemes and the things they can do to earn rewards.



**Mainstream** or setting of the mainstream people with some children with special educational needs (SEND); profound and a special

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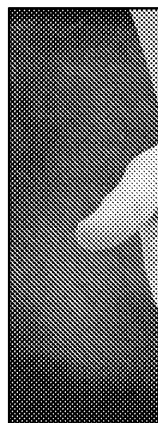
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## Acting fairly and consistently

Part of having a structured approach in educational settings, as discussed previously, is to ensure that the school or setting behaves in a fair and consistent way when dealing with children. One of the main ways this can be achieved is through the creation and implementation of a policy. This was discussed in detail in Chapter 4.6. Furthermore, it is essential that staff receive appropriate training to ensure that there is consistency of approach across the entire school or setting when dealing with behaviour.

One of the things it can be difficult for staff to do is to put their own feelings to one side when dealing with behavioural issues; it can be very easy to take things personally, particularly if a child or young person has been particularly aggressive or has given personal insults during the heat of the moment. However, it is important to remember at all times that it is not personal – the child or young person is lashing out because of how vulnerable and overwhelmed they feel. Bringing personal feelings to bear when dealing with a behavioural situation involving a child or young person will mean that you don't deal with the individual in a fair and consistent way. If you feel that you are unable to be fair and consistent when dealing with a child or young person, you must step back and ask another adult to take over.



### Applied activity

Think of a time when you felt unfairly treated by a member of school staff. What did this make you feel? What happened next? Did you respect/like the person whom you were treated by? Why / why not? How did your feelings towards this adult change after the event?

## Modelling appropriate behaviour

One of the most effective ways of ensuring that children and young people behave in a certain way is to model this behaviour ourselves. For example, if we would like children and young people to use good manners, then we should be seen to be using good manners at all times. Not only does this make it easier for them to learn, but it also engenders trust as we are not asking children and young people to do what we do not do ourselves.

We can also use older children and young people as role models in schools and colleges, praising them when they demonstrate the desired behaviours in front of other children and young people. Children and young people will often take more notice of things their peers do, and, therefore, this can be a very effective tool to use.

## Positive reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is an essential tool to use when helping children and young people to improve their behaviour in schools and other educational settings; it should be a key part of any behaviour policy in schools and other settings. Positive reinforcement occurs when we praise, or reward, a child or young person for displaying a desired behaviour. It is not ignored, but more emphasis should be placed on those individuals who are behaving well, rather than on those who are not.

We can often take for granted those children and young people who always behave well in school or classroom; using positive reinforcement is a way of positively acknowledging their good behaviour, but also reinforces to other children and young people the kinds of behaviours we want to see.

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The following are examples of ways in which positive reinforcement can be used in wording/language may need changing, depending on the age of the children / you

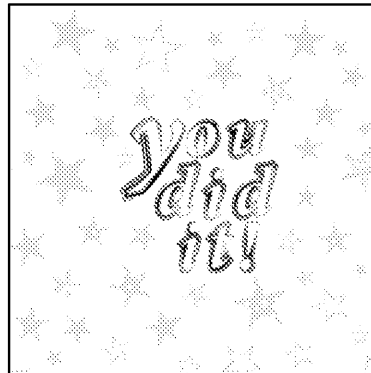
- Thank you for walking in the corridor.
- Amir, you are sitting smartly and showing me that you are ready to start the
- Thank you for putting up your hand instead of shouting out.
- I love that Zak tidies everything away before he chooses another activity.
- Thank you for using a quiet, indoor voice.

**Research activity**

Find out what you can about positive reinforcement. Where does the concept come from? Why does it work? This website is a good place to start: Check out the following link for support: [[zzed.uk/11783-positive](https://zzed.uk/11783-positive)]

**Applied activity**

Using the information from a partner to create an activity about using positive reinforcement



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## 4.9 and 4.10 Revision questions

1. Which **one** of the following is an example of appropriate praise?
  - A Well done.
  - B You need to try harder next time; I'm not happy with this.
  - C I'm pleased you remembered to include commas in your writing.
  - D Great, you've finished.
2. Justify the need to establish and maintain a structured approach when working with people in schools and other educational settings.
3. Explain how using formative feedback can help to improve the quality of a curriculum.
4. Explain how establishing and maintaining positive relationships with children can help to motivate and maintain their levels of achievement.
5. Explain what is meant by positive reinforcement in the classroom and give two examples.
6. Read the following case material:

*Zak is seven years old and is currently in Year 2 at the primary school you work at. He is very demotivated in the classroom and is reluctant to complete the work he is given. He is regularly getting into trouble in the playground by being too rough when he plays with other children.*

Answer the following question:

Explain three rewards which could be used by his teacher and other classroom staff to help him improve his attitude and behaviour when in school.

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## Chapter 4.11: How and why practitioners use strategies to support children and young people with self-regulation and resilience

In Chapter 4.4 we discussed the concept of self-regulation and the need to support children and young people in developing their ability to self-regulate during times of stress and heightened emotions. There are a number of strategies which practitioners can use to help support children and young people to develop their self-regulation, and these are discussed in detail in this chapter. Children and young people also need to develop **resilience** if they are to survive and thrive as part of a school or in the wider community. This chapter will also include some strategies which practitioners can use to help support children and young people to develop resilience when approaching tasks and experiences.

### Playing games / interactive sessions that encourage self-regulation and impulse control

It is not unusual for young children and toddlers to struggle with turn-taking and impulse control (see Chapter 4.5 for a reminder about this term); however, children and young people need to be helped with developing these necessary skills. Some children and young people, such as those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), may struggle more than others to understand the need for turn-taking when playing games with others. Many of these children and young people also struggle with the concepts of 'winning' and 'losing' when it comes to playing games, and may become frustrated, feeling they have been cheated in some way; this is where the need to develop impulse control in children and young people are to be able to interact appropriately with others. Sessions which involve turn-taking – for example, board games – as a regular part of family time for children and young people who do not have this opportunity at home, and/or for those who need to intervene and help pupils to develop these requisite skills. There are a number of ways to help children and young people to develop turn-taking skills and impulse control, although there are many more to be discovered.

#### Playing board games and other turn-taking games

Playing board games and other games (such as dominoes and card games) with children is perhaps one of the simplest ways in which to support children and young people to develop the skills of turn-taking and impulse control. When first starting to introduce such an **intervention**, it is advisable to use just a small group of children, or even just a pair of children, to keep the anxiety levels of all individuals to a minimum. It is a good idea to include as part of the group or pair, children or young people who are able to demonstrate the skills of turn-taking at the game; the individuals we are trying to support can then see the necessary skills in action. This will help to prevent the session descending into chaos if there are multiple children. Positive reinforcement should always be used in these situations to reinforce the desired behaviour.

**Intervention**  
An individual or group of individuals who provide support to a person who is struggling with a particular skill or behaviour.

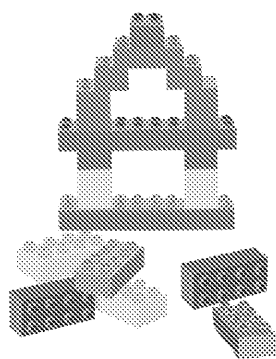
#### Lego Therapy

Lego Therapy was originally created to support children and young people with autism to develop skills such as turn-taking, impulse control and resilience. However, it can be used with children and young people to great effect to help them develop the same skills. Lego Therapy involves a pre-determined number of sessions and is run by a trained practitioner; it involves children or young people working together to follow instructions to build a Lego model (which can be used just as successfully). Each child or young person has a pre-determined role, such as 'builder', 'supplier', and these roles are swapped over between sessions. Lego Therapy can be used with multiple groups of children or young people, depending on staff availability. The outlay as different Lego projects will need to be bought; the size and complexity of the projects will reflect the age and abilities of the children taking part in the group.

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### Research activity

Find out as much as you can about Lego. [zzed.ed.uk/11783-11784](https://www.zzed.ed.uk/11783-11784) is a good place to start. The creator of Lego Therapy, Dr Dan LeCompte, has written about Lego Therapy, which make for interesting reading. There are links to the publications through the aforementioned website.

## Sharing stories that encourage reflection on own and others' emotions

Young children in particular can find it hard to reflect on and put a name to their own and others' emotions. Generally speaking, if a child grows and develops emotionally at an appropriate pace with very little targeted input from the adults in the setting or school. However, some children, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may need help to develop the ability to reflect on their own and others' emotions.



Before children and young people are able to reflect on their own emotions, they need to be able to reflect on others' emotions, then they can reflect on what they are feeling and to be able to name this. This is a skill and is, therefore, something which we as practitioners need to help them develop. Being able to recognise the emotion they are experiencing and to give it a name to it is a big step towards helping the child or young person to help themselves to self-regulate. Once this step has been taken, young people can then be encouraged to begin to reflect on their own emotions, begin to understand what triggers these emotions and how they can manage themselves to manage strong emotions. The final step is to reflect on the emotions of others; this is a vital step for young people to function in society as they need to understand the emotions of other people.

There are a number of ways in which practitioners can help children and young people to understand their own emotions and the emotions of others, but one tool we can utilise is the sharing of stories. For children and young people, the sharing of stories is vital in helping them to develop their language and understanding. Stories can also be used to help children to recognise and name their emotions and the emotions of others. There are a number of books which are specifically designed for this purpose; however, most picture books have a message or theme which could also be used. It is important to remember that the book/story must reflect the child's or young person's literacy and emotional skills; we need to look for books and stories which are a good fit for the person we wish to help.



### Did you know?

*Dr Sharie Coombes has written many books designed to help children and young people reflect upon their own and others' emotions. These books are available from most booksellers, or you may already have some copies in your school or setting.*

### Research activity

Think of a child or young person who needs extra support to help them understand their own emotions, or one who struggles to understand the emotions of others. Consider the books which are available to you and choose one you would like to share with them. Why? Remember that the book must reflect the child or young person you are helping. A teenager might not necessarily

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## Modelling coping skills

As has been mentioned before, one of the best ways for children and young people to learn coping skills is by seeing them modelled by their peers, by older children and young people, and by adults in the school setting. Therefore, one of the best ways of helping children and young people to develop coping skills is to see these skills modelled, usually by adults in the setting. We use our coping skills every day and when we are handling difficult emotions. Most of the time we, as adults, use coping skills without realising it; by now they have become second nature to us. However, many children and young people need help to develop their own coping skills, particularly if the adults at home do not model these skills. These coping skills will help to prevent them from going into emotional overload and prevent undesired behaviours emerging. This can be a lengthy, ongoing process and they will need consistent support over a long period of time in order to help them develop their own coping skills.

In order to model coping skills, we need to do this overtly; don't assume that a child or young person knows what you are doing. Therefore, you need to verbalise the whole process for them. The strategies you choose to use to model coping strategies don't have to have genuinely annoyed you, but they should give an opportunity to model appropriate coping strategies. For example, the verbalisation could be something like this:

'I went to the staffroom to eat my lunch and I found out that someone had eaten my chocolate biscuit. I asked me if they could have it. No one admitted it and I felt really angry because I was angry about the chocolate biscuit. It wasn't a good idea to get cross and lose my temper in the staffroom. I went around the field and it helped to calm me down. I often go for a walk when I need to calm down. Is there something you think would help you? Perhaps we could try it together next time.'

Obviously, the wording would change depending on the child's or young person's situation and the process you are with them. It will take time and so you will need to repeat this process with other members of staff to do the same when they work with the child or young person.

### Applied activity

Think about your own coping skills. How do you react when you are upset or angry? How do you work with or when you are shopping or on a night out? What do you do? Make a list of coping strategies. Which of these strategies would be appropriate for passing on to a child or young person? Think about how you could pass these coping skills onto a child or young person.

## Encouraging physical exercise

Being able to engage in physical activity is an important self-regulation tool for many children and young people; in fact:

*'Evidence shows that children and young people who are more active have more confidence, higher self-esteem, less anxiety and stress and better social skills – attributes that can help them deal with the challenges they face in daily life.'*<sup>8</sup>

Therefore, we can see that all children and young people can be helped by taking part in physical activity. It is important to note that many children and young people will only get the opportunity to engage in appropriate physical activities when they are at school or in another educational setting.

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<sup>8</sup> Public Health England – Physical activity helps children to deal with life's challenges – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-helps-children-to-deal-with-life-s-challenges>

For some children and young people, physical exercise becomes an even more important part of their self-regulation strategies and is a key part of the strategies that some practitioners will provide for these individuals in order to help them avoid emotional overwhelm and eventual meltdown. Furthermore, some children and young people have a specific need which can only be fulfilled by physical exercise. For example, the brain of an individual with sensory processing disorder does not process sensory information provided by the senses in the same way as a **neurotypical brain**, and this can cause the brain to be under-responsive or over-responsive to certain stimuli (e.g. smells, sounds, certain movements and tastes). Certain children who are under-responsive to certain types of movement may need this providing for them as part of their normal day; providing this will help to ensure that these children / young people remain calm because their sensory needs are being met and they are receiving the sensory input they need to help them to self-regulate.

### Case study

*Kim is eight years old and often engages in unwanted behaviour in school; she regularly throws tantrums when asked to complete written tasks. You have been asked to observe Kim to begin to understand how staff can help her to self-regulate when she is becoming emotionally overwhelmed. You notice that Kim often complains that the pencil is too loud when she is asked to write with one. Furthermore, when you observe Kim at playtimes you notice that she likes to spin round and round on the spot for minutes at a time but never seems to get dizzy.*

### Research activity

Find out more about sensory and sensory integration – a good place to start: [zzed.co.uk](https://www.zzed.co.uk). In particular, can you find out what each of the senses does and what each of them is responsible for?

### Applied activity

Using the information from the case study and the information collected in the research activity, can you decide what activities might be involved here? What strategies might you make or suggest to help Kim? What activities might you suggest in the future? Can you find which would be a visual activity, a tactile activity, a sensory-seeking, spinning activity?

## Encouraging problem-solving, supporting how challenges in a positive light and creating opportunities for supported risks

As adults, we often enjoy helping children and young people to complete tasks and solve problems; it can be hard to see someone struggle when they don't find a task easy. However, there is a fine line between supporting someone as they learn to solve problems and helping them to the point where we disable the child or young person completely. If we do this then we quite often stop the child or young person from developing the necessary problem-solving skills which will help them as they move through life.

Bright children, who in general find tasks easy, are often reluctant to engage in tasks which they might fail or not get the 'right' answer; they may also not enjoy open-ended tasks where there is more than one correct answer. Conversely, children and young people who struggle to make sense of concepts are often more used to failure and are generally more resilient. Some children are often more resilient as they are used to finding things difficult and working for things. Our job as practitioners is to encourage all children and young people to develop their problem-solving skills when approaching a wide range of tasks. It is also important to encourage them to learn to solve problems independently, as well as in pairs and small groups.

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We have already discussed the need for children and young people to develop resilience to complete difficult tasks. This is a skill that we need to help them develop, and we have already discussed how children and young people will find developing resilience more difficult than other skills. The support we need to provide them to do is to reframe challenges in a positive light. This is an ability we need to teach on a regular basis, and the skills involved will need to be broken down and taught in bite-sized chunks.

Finally, getting the difficulty level of tasks correct is challenging; we want individuals to be solving problems, but we don't want to put them off entirely because the task is too difficult. We need to encourage children and young people to take supported risks. As human beings, we all make mistakes or the mistakes of others than we do from getting things right first time. We need to share which we must share with the children and young people in our care so that they know it is okay to make mistakes; being afraid of failure can stop many individuals from trying in the first place. In other educational settings, as practitioners, we must create an environment of support where children are encouraged to take appropriate and supported risks. An environment like this will help create resilient children and young people.



### Did you know?

*TASC (Thinking Actively in a Social Context) is a framework developed by Belle van der Stoep to help children develop problem-solving and thinking skills. You can find out more by visiting the TASC website.*

## Providing opportunities to support socialisation

Very young children will need support as they socialise with their peers and start to learn to share. They still need to learn and develop many of the skills we have already discussed, such as self-regulation and control. Older children and young people with certain conditions and/or special educational needs (SEND) will also need support to develop these skills and to be given specific opportunities to socialise. These interactions will need to be carefully monitored and managed to prevent the individual from becoming overwhelmed emotionally and to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Children and young people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other conditions, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), are often poor at picking up on **social cues** from others, which can mean that their peers become frustrated with them if the situation is not managed carefully. Children and young people with these conditions can often want to control situations and be in charge of any games or play, as this is a way of lessening their own anxiety; however, this can be frustrating for other children and young people and make them reluctant to socialise with these individuals. As practitioners, we need to support these interactions and teach these children and young people the skills of letting others have some say in play opportunities.

It is also important to engineer opportunities for children and young people to work together in a structured setting; after all, being able to work with others is an important skill we need as adults. We need to provide support from adults in order to be able to do this successfully. This will require careful planning and can be very structured. A good start would be for a child or young person to work with an adult for a few minutes; this could then be built upon slowly.

One important point to make is that some children and young people may be perfectly happy in their own company or may prefer the company of adults for one reason or another. While it is important to provide these individuals with socialisation activities and support when interacting with their peers, this is not something which should be forced if the child or young person shows distress at being made to interact with others. It might be necessary to try much smaller steps when introducing socialisation activities until the individual becomes more comfortable when interacting with others.




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## Encouraging mindfulness

Helping children and young people to develop strategies for **mindfulness** will help their ability to self-regulate when they are feeling emotionally overwhelmed or on the verge of meltdown. It is important that individuals are taught to recognise their own triggers and learn to recognise when they are beginning to feel overwhelmed. Mindfulness techniques could help children and young people to cope with some of their trickier emotions, to feel calmer and to become more aware of how to respond to unhelpful thoughts when they appear.<sup>9</sup>

There are a number of simple mindfulness techniques which a practitioner could teach people, and there are a lot of free resources on the Internet, including some appropriate for classroom or other educational setting. It is important to note that not all resources are suitable for young people and so resources must be vetted carefully before they are used by them. Furthermore, mindfulness does not suit everybody and, therefore, it is important to introduce the technique onto children and young people who have given it a fair go but who have not.



**Mindfulness:** a technique which involves being aware of what is happening in the present moment and focusing on this. You might concentrate on how you are feeling or things you notice in your immediate environment.

### **Research activity**

Research some basic mindfulness techniques taught to children or young people. You could also look for some video resources with children or young people. Make yourself a list of the most useful ones. You can easily find them in the future. Visit [zzed.uk/](http://www.zzed.uk/) to start your research.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) – Mindfulness – What is mindfulness? – Mind

#### 4.11 Revision questions

1. Explain how physical exercise can be used to help a child to self-regulate.
2. Describe a classroom activity which can be used to help children and young people to manage their own emotions.
3. Explain how you could help a child to develop their turn-taking skills.
4. Why is it important that children and young people are given opportunities to develop resilience?
5. Read the following case material:

*Cara is in Year 8 at the secondary school you work in and is 12 years old. She is a bright girl, does well in school and is a bright girl. In the last few weeks she has begun to tell you that she is working too hard, and she will often give up rather than try a task and not be able to finish it.*

Answer the following question:

Give **three** strategies you could use to help Cara to develop resilience when she faces challenges. For each strategy, briefly explain how this will help her to develop resilience.

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## Chapter 4.12: How and why practitioners strategies to respond to behaviour

We have already discussed at length in other chapters the range of strategies which settings to help them respond to behaviour and to encourage desired behaviours; some of these strategies – in particular, those available to practitioners which can

### Being fair and consistent

It is of paramount importance that every practitioner demonstrates fairness and challenging behaviours, regardless of their own beliefs. One of the main ways in through following the school's or setting's behaviour policy, which all staff will be As discussed in Chapter 4.6, behaviour management policies, when correctly implemented consistency and fairness when dealing with all children or young people in the set one class will receive the same reward or punishment as a child in another class, regardless of any practitioners' personal opinions.

#### Research activity

Author and behaviour training expert Paul Dix believes that the key to changing behaviour in schools lies firmly with the adults. His book *When the Adults Change, Everything Changes: Seismic Shifts in School Behaviour* (ISBN: 9781781352731) explains his views in detail, giving real-life examples. To find out more about this school of thought, the aforementioned book is a great place to start.



Having said that, one size does not fit all. There are occasions when the whole set do not fit certain individuals; for example, children with behavioural issues and/or special educational needs (SEND). In these situations, it is of paramount importance that all practitioners take a consistent and fair approach when dealing with the individual. Any practitioners who are experienced in dealing with an individual in question need to use a range of strategies which are currently effective for that individual and to deal with the situation so that they can be sure they are behaving

There may be occasions when, for various reasons, you find yourself clashing with some of the challenging behaviours some children or young people demonstrate are difficult as possible, whether negative or positive, and this can seem irritating. You may also find about having to work with the child or young person in question; they may label you and not understand why they are not treated in the same way as other children or young people. Remember that you are the adult and that all behaviour is a form of communication. Look at the child's or young person's history that would explain why they behave as they do. This is not to say that it is easy to listen to colleagues being negative about a child or young person from their point of view; always remember that you could be the person that makes the difference to that person and that you must always deal with them in a fair and consistent manner. If you find yourself becoming irritated by a child or young person, withdraw yourself from the situation and feel calm enough to deal with them again.

### Focusing on the behaviour rather than the individual

It is important when dealing with behaviour that we learn to separate this behaviour from the person; it is the behaviour being demonstrated that we are unhappy with, not the person. Therefore, we must be careful with our wording when discussing an individual's behaviour. We should not label the child or the young person. We shouldn't ever say phrases such as 'Bad boy' or 'Bad girl' as this is clearly labelling the child / young person and not the behaviour. Once we use these terms with children and young people, it becomes almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. We should think of themselves in negative terms.

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We have discussed the concept of self-esteem at length in Chapters 4.2, 4.3 and the importance of children and young people having good self-esteem if they are to succeed in education; focusing on the child rather than the behaviour is known to have a negative impact upon self-esteem. Furthermore, as we know, many of the individuals who behave in undesirable ways are likely to have poor self-esteem anyway, for a number of different reasons. It is our job as practitioners to raise an individual's self-esteem rather than to cause it further harm.

It would be better to use phrases which highlight the behaviour, such as 'Hurting was an unkind thing to do...'. This way we are clearly referring to the behaviour and the fact that the individual made the wrong decision in choosing to hurt someone, rather than negatively labelling the child or young person. This is also more likely to result in the individual being able to reflect upon their behaviour and to begin to understand it. For some children and young people to reflect upon their own behaviour is a difficult task, so support them in beginning to change their behaviour.

### **Applied activity**

Think carefully about how you would normally speak to a child who has behaved in an undesirable way. Think about how you've heard a colleague speak to children or young people.

1. Make a list of phrases you've heard or used which label the child rather than the behaviour.
2. Make another list of phrases which you've heard or used which label the behaviour rather than the child or young person.
3. Work on using the latter list of phrases when dealing with behaviour incidents.

## **Following the behaviour policy and referring to the behaviour policy or student code of conduct**

In Chapter 4.6 we discussed, in detail, the use of a whole setting behaviour policy. A consistent approach of all staff when responding to behaviour is consistent and fair. By following the policy, the school will know how to deal with different instances of undesirable behaviours and sanctions. As a result, there can be no accusations of unfairness, and it doesn't matter whether the child or young person they are dealing with – the rules and sanctions are the same. The behaviour policy needs to be reviewed regularly to ensure it matches the needs of the school and pupils. Furthermore, all new staff need to become familiar with the policy and its implementation. Children and young people often feel safer in environments where all adults will deal with them in a fair and consistent manner, regardless of the situation.

Some schools and settings will have a student code of conduct, which is an agreed set of rules that children and young people are expected to behave while on the premises. This code is displayed prominently in classrooms and throughout the building so that students are constantly reminded of it. Adults can refer to it regularly, particularly when they are dealing with incidences of undesirable behaviour.

One of the best ways to ensure that children and young people follow the rules is to involve them in their development. One of the ways this can be done is through the collection and writing of classroom rules. This is something that is often done in primary schools at the start of the new school year.

1. The practitioner could start by asking the children what their ideal classroom would be like and what they would like to do their best at school; and, what makes it difficult for them to learn?
2. From this, and through further discussion, the adult will tease out a set of classroom rules that will be followed all year.
3. The classroom staff can then refer to these rules when discussing a child's behaviour.
  - Teacher: 'Do you remember our class rule about not shouting in the classroom? It's important because if it's too loud we all find it difficult to concentrate.'
  - Because the children have had a say in creating these rules, they are more likely to follow them; children will also often remind each other about these important rules if a child doesn't follow them.

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In some schools and settings, there is a school council whose members are made up of children or young people in the school. For example, there might be two representatives from each year group; it often depends on the size of the school and/or the age of the children or young people. School councils, when they are used correctly, have an important job as they represent the views of the school or setting. They should be able to give their input regarding the school's or setting's rules, rewards and sanctions; while not every idea the school council comes up with should be given a fair hearing by a staff representative, who can then feed back to the council.

## Implementing appropriate incentive and recognition schemes

In Chapters 4.9 and 4.10 we discussed the use of incentive and recognition schemes as a form of extrinsic motivation which may be needed until an individual's internal motivation develops. When thinking about implementing appropriate incentive and recognition schemes, it is important to ensure fairness and consistency; if two children or young people (of the same age) break the same rule, they should expect to receive exactly the same sanction. Furthermore, all rewards and sanctions should be in line with the school's behaviour policy, again to ensure that all adults are behaving consistently when issuing them.

Any rewards/incentives need to be age- and stage-appropriate for the child or young person they are intended for. Whereas primary school children are often over the moon to be given a sticker, a secondary school pupil may be less than impressed to be given the same reward. Therefore, incentive and recognition schemes should be carefully thought out to take into account the age of the children or young people in the setting, and/or their stage of emotional development.

Any sanctions given should also be age- and stage-appropriate for the children and young people in the setting and should not infringe on the individual's human rights in any way. Sanctions can range from a timeout given to younger children to detentions or an **exclusion** for older children.

In many schools and settings there is often a big age gap between the oldest child and the youngest child; therefore, any behaviour policy and systems of rewards and sanctions need to take this into account. A reward given to an 11-year-old in a Year 6 classroom would not necessarily be appropriate for a child in the nursery class at the same school. Similarly, a sanction given to a mainstream child would not necessarily be appropriate for a child of the same age with special educational needs (SEND). All these factors should be taken into account when a behaviour policy is developed.

**Exclusion** is a sanction where a young person is asked to attend school for a short period of time, usually a few days, to reflect on their behaviour. It is a last resort and should be used only when other sanctions have failed. It is a mix of rewards and sanctions, and an exclusion is a punishment for a child or young person.



### Did you know?

There are rules and guidelines from the government which a school must follow when giving sanctions to children and young people. To find out more visit: [zzed.uk/11783-discipline](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-discipline)



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## Using language that clarifies expectations

A key part of managing behaviour in schools and other educational settings should be that children and young people have a clear idea of what is expected of them in terms of behaviour. What is expected to follow should be made transparent, and any sanctions or rewards systems should be clear to everyone. Children and young people should know beforehand that if they behave in a certain way, there will be consequences.

Practitioners should always use the language of choice with children and young people. As we discussed earlier in this chapter, it is important to focus on the behaviour rather than the individual, and using the language of choice helps us to do this. It also makes it very clear that the decision to behave in a certain way is the choice of the individual. For example, a practitioner might say to a young child, 'I have asked you not to throw the bricks. If you choose to keep throwing them then you are choosing to sit for three minutes on the timeout chair.' Using the language of choice means that the child or young person is given an opportunity to stop the behaviour before they are punished as a consequence.

An important point to remember is that, where possible, children and young people should be given a choice. If they carry on with their chosen behaviour then they will receive a punishment. If the behaviour is dangerous or particularly extreme, giving the individual a warning may not be possible.

School rules, in general, should be phrased in a positive rather than a negative way. For example, a rule which states 'No running in school', a more positive way of phrasing it would be 'Please walk in the corridors'. This more positive way of phrasing is also preferable because it focuses on going to follow the rule and it is thanking them for it. It also clarifies expectations so that the person immediately knows what is expected of them in terms of behaviour.

### Applied activity

Think of some school rules you remember from your time in school. Were these phrased positively? How could you reword some of the negative rules to make them sound positive?

## Providing a calm and safe environment

If a child or young person goes into meltdown or becomes overwhelmed in a busy school, this can be very distressing for other pupils to see; depending on the severity of the behaviour, it can also be a physical risk to other pupils. It can also be very distressing for the child or young person to have this witnessed by their peers; they may not seem to care at the time, but afterwards, once they have been given a chance to calm down. Sometimes, the best way to deal with this is to remove the child or young person and to take them to a calmer/quieter location.



### Did you know?

There are clear government guidelines for the use of reasonable force with pupils in schools. The following publication will give you more detail on this: [zzed.uk/11783-advice](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-advice)

It is a good idea to already have a quiet location where a child or young person can go when they feel themselves becoming overwhelmed. Practitioners can show the individual where to go and encourage them to go to it when they feel that they need to use this as a coping strategy; it also negates the need to remove the young person from the situation after the meltdown. It is a good idea to discuss with the child or young person what they need to feel safe and help them to calm down and, where possible, to plan the space. For example, a young child could be given a small table when they are feeling threatened or emotionally overwhelmed. This could be placed over a table for the specific use of the child or young person.

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to go to a safe place; a blanket or cushion could also be placed under the table if the idea, in order to make the place feel more reassuring.

If it becomes necessary to remove a child or young person from a situation, this should be done using persuasion rather than through the use of physical intervention. Physical intervention should be a last resort – for example, if the pupil is at risk of harming themselves or others – and should be done by people who are trained to do this safely.

### Case study

*Gus is eight years old and has recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). He seems to become emotionally overwhelmed very quickly and often goes into meltdown in the classroom. He doesn't hurt other children or staff, but he has been known to deliberately hurt himself when he's feeling emotionally overwhelmed.*



### Applied activity

What could you do to help Gus in the situation before it develops into a meltdown? Think of anything you think of should be implemented in a normal classroom. Explain your ideas to another person. Think of your plan? Can you think of anything you could do to help?

## Encouraging co-regulation

Co-regulation is a psychological term that refers to the processes through which children learn to soothe and manage emotions during distressing or stressful situations. It involves the regulatory support given by a caregiver, parent or teacher. It differs from self-regulation, where children manage their emotions on their own. Some children find it more challenging to learn these skills, especially if parents have not allowed them to build up these skills.

Effective co-regulation can support self-efficacy and allow children to feel secure. It can be broken down into three broad categories:

1. Provide a **warm and responsive relationship** with the child, being there for them during times of stress.
2. Provide a **structured environment** that is physically and emotionally safe.
3. Provide **support to students to learn self-regulation skills** by presenting opportunities to practice skills and offering scaffolding to help achieve the skills.

Examples of ways co-regulation can be used in the classroom include:

- Use of lighting to set the scene, e.g. dim lights to bring the energy down.
- Lowering volume and tone to de-escalate a situation and calm the situation.
- Bending down to the student's eye level to reduce your physical presence over them.
- Reminding students of available support and strategies to support them in difficult situations.

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#### 4.12 Revision questions

1. Explain why it is important to focus on the behaviour of an individual rather than a group.
2. Describe how using appropriate incentives can help to improve behaviour in a group.
3. In what circumstances might it be a good idea to remove a child or young person from a group situation?
4. Give **three** reasons why it is important for practitioners to be fair and consistent in their response to behaviour.
5. Explain why it is important for practitioners to follow the whole setting behaviour policy.
6. Read the following case material:

*Ahmet is nine years old. He is relatively new to the school and, since he arrived, his behaviour in the classroom has been disruptive and he has been known to throw things when he is feeling emotionally overwhelmed.*

Answer the following question:

Identify and evaluate a range of strategies which can be used by practitioners to respond to the behaviour he is exhibiting.

Your response should show:

- how a range of strategies can be used to anticipate and prevent such behaviour
- which strategies should be used once Ahmet begins to display unwanted behaviour
- an evaluation of why the strategies you have suggested might work with Ahmet

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## Chapter 4.13: How and why practitioners strategies to motivate children and young people stretch their skills and abilities

We have looked in detail at how to support children and young people who often struggle to improve their behaviour and attitude towards school, but what about those who are already achieving? What can practitioners do to motivate children and young people to test their abilities? We should always do our very best as practitioners to motivate and stretch children and young people in our care.

### Setting high, realistic expectations

We should always have the highest expectations of achievement for all children and young people, regardless of their culture, home situation or any other factors. However, these expectations should be realistic, taking into account both the age and stage of development of the child or young person and whether they have any special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); we should encourage each child or young person to do the very best they can, taking these factors into account. As we have said before, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to working with children and young people; therefore, our strategies for motivating and stretching their skills and abilities should be tailored to each individual (what is important in the classroom to resist the urge to compare children with each other, as this can end up having a negative impact on other children and young people as they will compare themselves unfavourably with others in the setting).

An important point to note is that while we must encourage and motivate every child or young person to do their best and to stretch their skills and abilities, we must be careful not to set the bar too high, as this can end up having a negative impact rather than the positive impact we are aiming for.

### Using age- and stage-appropriate praise and encouragement

In Chapters 4.9 and 4.10 we discussed at length the need for using positive reinforcement to encourage children and young people in order to encourage them to adhere to behaviour policies and to stretch their abilities. However, any praise and encouragement which is used as part of positive reinforcement should be both age- and stage-appropriate. What this means is that when designing a reinforcement strategy, you should take into account the age of the child or young person and their stage of emotional development, as well as take into account any particular needs or conditions they have. For example, it is more effective to give a five-year-old an on-the-spot prize or sticker for something they have done rather than putting it into a raffle and may win a prize at the end of the week. Young children, or those with lower cognitive development, have very little concept of time and won't understand the need to wait for a prize. It has more impact if they are given the praise immediately, with an appropriate explanation given it.

Furthermore, any praise or constructive feedback which is given also needs to take into account the level of emotional development a child or young person is at. You are likely to cause confusion if you use the same language more suited to a five-year-old with a young teenager and are likely to lose any reinforcement if they don't understand what you had for you.

### Involving parents/carers as part of a whole school approach

In Chapter 4.6, we briefly discussed the need for parents and carers to be aware of the school's expectations and the need for the expected standard of behaviour to be clarified for them. The support of parents and carers will support the school/setting when it comes to giving out reinforcement to children and young people. Cooperation between school and home is one of the keys to ensuring that children and young people achieve the best outcomes; where links between home and school are weak, children and young people tend to achieve lower standards. If children and young people's parents or carers can be contacted, this may be an added incentive to follow any school/classroom rules.

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On a more positive note, it is also important that parents/carers are informed of any rewards their children are given, in order to celebrate this more fully.

As part of their behaviour policy, schools/settings may choose to send letters or postcards home to parents and carers to let them know when their child has done something praiseworthy. Some schools also invite parents/carers to celebration events, such as an assembly, in order to celebrate their child's achievements.

The key here, obviously, is to form strong links between home and school which are in the best interests of all children and young people. However, the responsibility for this is shared between the school or setting; many parents/carers have negative associations with school from their own growing up, and are often reluctant to deal with school for any reason. School can be an extra hard to form links with these parents and carers for the ultimate benefit of the children. This has to be done in a non-threatening way by a more approachable member of staff.

## **Giving individuals a role/responsibility**

One of the key ways to improve behaviour in a school or setting can be to allocate roles and responsibilities or jobs to children and young people. In many primary schools, children are often more than happy to be given jobs and responsibilities by staff – jobs such as handing out the registers to different classes or collecting the class money. These jobs are even more coveted if they are accompanied by a badge or lanyard which indicates the wearer's importance! In secondary schools and colleges there tend to be more formal roles available, such as class representative or school prefect, and these roles often come with associated privileges.

There are a number of different ways in which the allocation of jobs, roles and responsibilities can help to improve the behaviour of children or young people.

The first is by awarding these jobs and responsibilities as a reward for consistently good behaviour. Opportunities to include as many children and young people as possible, these roles can be given on a half-termly or weekly basis.

A second way that roles or responsibilities may help to improve behaviour is by giving them to children or young people who don't always behave well. Allocating jobs to these individuals gives them a sense of responsibility and might help to improve their self-esteem as you can praise them for all of which could help to ultimately improve their behaviour.

The third way of using jobs and responsibilities to improve behaviour is by using them to help individuals out of trouble. For example, a child or young person may struggle to sit still and continually lose their temper when playing with other children. Of course, the individual needs to be learning how to manage situations and to self-regulate, but this can take a long time. Giving them a job which they can do inside the classroom at playtime could provide a short-term solution. Obviously, the child or young person would need to be made aware that this is not a punishment; they can choose whether or not to stay inside to complete the jobs. Most children with behavioural issues have some level of self-awareness about it and will often apologise to themselves out of trouble. As the individual begins to learn to self-regulate and stop becoming emotionally overwhelmed, they could be encouraged to ask to do jobs when they are in trouble and beginning to self-regulate again. Mundane and repetitive tasks can often help emotionally overwhelmed individuals. It may be a good idea to let the child or young person complete their tasks or to help them; this friend should be a calm presence who can make the individual feel that they are not being punished.

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**Case study**

*Jin is a 12-year-old boy with special educational needs and some behavioural issues. He loves to play football with the other children but often loses his temper with them if his team doesn't win. On occasion this has led him to hurt himself, and on one occasion to hurt a member of staff.*

**Applied activity**

How could you help Jin? It is likely to lose his temper with him that this is a good idea. Might you ask him to do this with a fellow student, with a child and the other player swap over.

Self  
and  
and

## Encouraging self-reflection

**Self-reflection** can be a difficult and uncomfortable process to go through, even for relatively well-adjusted adults; it can be painful to reflect upon your own actions and discover that you might have done the wrong thing. Just imagine how much more uncomfortable it might be for children and young people who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who may have grown up in less than perfect circumstances. However, children and young people with behavioural issues need to develop the skill of self-reflection. The goal of self-reflection is to improve in the future; in fact, self-reflection is a valuable skill for all children and young people with others in society.

For some children and young people, developing the skill of self-reflection can be a challenge for the practitioners in the school or setting; this can be a long process. As was discussed in Chapter 4.10, the first steps for children and young people who are on the road to developing self-reflection are to reflect on their own emotions and the emotions of others; this in itself can be an emotional process which practitioners can help with. As we also discovered in Chapter 4.11, there are many resources available to us to support children and young people in being able to reflect on their own emotions and the emotions of others.

Without the ability to self-reflect or to reflect on our own emotions or the emotions of others, we are unlikely to feel remorse when we have done something unpleasant or to feel empathy for others. This is why it is of vital importance that children and young people develop the skill of self-reflection.

## Rewarding success

In Chapter 4.9, we talked at length about incentive and recognition schemes and how to motivate children's and young people's behaviour, attainment and achievement. We explained how behaviour management policies and processes allow opportunities for success. We listed some examples of rewards and methods of celebrating success. The importance of rewarding the successes of children and young people is that success can come in many different forms and to different people. We need to understand what success looks like for each child and celebrate this accordingly. For example, an 11-year-old girl learning how to tie her shoelaces might be such a big deal until you realise how much effort she has put into finally learning to do it. It has been for her.

It is also important to note that all children and young people need to experience success. To understand what this feels like and to want to experience the same feeling again. Being successful leads to individuals wanting to continue to be successful and raise their standards. As practitioners, we need to find ways to ensure the success of all children and young people, regardless of their abilities.

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## Celebrating mistakes as learning opportunities

In Chapter 4.11 we discussed the need to show children and young people that even adults can make mistakes and that these can, in fact, be learning opportunities. It is important that children and young people know that they aren't perfect and can make mistakes too; many children love nothing better than to see an adult make a mistake! Show children and young people that practitioners don't know everything. If you don't know how to spell a word, be honest about this and explain to the children that you're learning. Teaching children and young people that mistakes can also be a positive experience can lead to a number of possible positive outcomes:

- Showing children and young people that you don't have to be perfect all the time and that it's okay to make mistakes and to just 'have a go'.
- Children and young people who are taught how to learn from their mistakes will be better learners in the future.
- When children and young people realise that adults don't have all the answers, they will see practitioners as partners in learning.
- By making mistakes as an adult and owning these, we show children and young people that it's nothing to be ashamed of. They will also begin to see that we are all lifelong learners.

There are many reasons to celebrate mistakes and see them instead as learning opportunities. One of the most important things to remember is that making mistakes is what makes us all unique.



### **Applied activity**

Think of something you are not very good at. How can you use this to your advantage? Generally make lots of mistakes. How could you use these mistakes with the children and young people? How can you turn your mistake/s into a learning opportunity?

## Encouraging children and young people to recognise other's positive behaviour

Children and young people can often learn more from their peers than they do from adults. It is important to value the opinion of other children or young people as much as the opinion of adults. It makes sense to use this concept to improve behaviour within a school or setting. This will create a positive learning environment for everyone.

The first step in developing a culture where children and young people recognise each other's positive behaviour is for this first to be clearly modelled by practitioners. We need to make this process completely transparent so that children and young people clearly understand what is required of them; for example, by saying things such as 'Thank you, Rose, I really appreciate you holding the door for me.' Children and young people very quickly pick up on this type of cue and will begin using these phrases themselves.

There are many other ways in which children and young people can be encouraged to recognise positive behaviour. For example, every day you could appoint a different child / young person to recognise positive behaviour from their classmates. They could be given the power to award a star for positive behaviour. They must be able to explain what the point has been awarded for. Another suggestion is to have a voting system for a star of the week – the person who has behaved the most positively. Children and young people would need to be able to carefully explain why they were voting for a particular person. This will need some careful managing to ensure that a different child wins every week as you don't want to think you might never win.

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#### 4.13 Revision questions

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1. Give **two** reasons why giving individuals jobs and/or responsibilities in the class can improve behaviour.
2. Give **one** reason why it is important to involve parents/carers as part of a whole school approach to behaviour.
3. Why is it essential that all practitioners set high, realistic expectations for all children?
4. Give **three** reasons why it is important to celebrate mistakes in classrooms as part of a whole school approach to behaviour.

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## Chapter 4.14: How practitioners assess risks to others' safety when dealing with challenging behaviour

There are a number of factors which need to be taken into account when assessing a child or young person's challenging behaviour. This is not to prejudge an individual's actions but to ensure that the environment is designed to keep everyone safe who may come into contact with the individual. A child or young person may exhibit challenging behaviour, but if this behaviour has not caused harm to the individual themselves, staff or other children / young people, then this behaviour is not considered a risk.

### Being aware of an individual's prior history and triggers and early warning signs

As mentioned above, it is important not to prejudge an individual's actions before they occur. It is important to be aware of a child's / young person's prior history if this involves violence towards others. Alongside this it is important to be fully aware of any triggers, as discussed in Chapter 4.7. Individual behaviour plans also ensure that the individual are aware of any triggers and what methods may work when trying to help them begin to regulate their emotions. It is also important to be able to spot the early warning signs of someone about to go into meltdown. For those individuals who are aggressive or violent towards others, it is necessary to complete an individual risk assessment.

**De-escalation techniques:** these techniques are intended to defuse the situation and give the child or young person time to regulate before the situation has the chance to descend into aggression and violence.

**Risk assessment:** a document which identifies any risks to the people in the building/school and what steps can be taken to minimise this risk.

#### Research activity

Find out what you can about basic de-escalation techniques, which are incredibly useful for defusing potentially aggressive situations with children and young people.

Prepare a brief presentation which can be used to teach colleagues and/or other students about de-escalation techniques.

In Chapter 4.7, we talked in detail about individual behaviour plans for those children and young people who are aggressive or violent towards others. Individual behaviour plans also ensure that the individual are aware of any triggers and what methods may work when trying to help them begin to regulate their emotions. It is also important to be able to spot the early warning signs of someone about to go into meltdown. For those individuals who are aggressive or violent towards others, it is necessary to complete an individual risk assessment.

Schools and educational settings will have individual risk assessments in place which are designed to keep young people and visitors safe while they are in the setting. An individual risk assessment is intended to identify any risks that an individual may pose to others and the steps that can be taken to help minimise this risk. It can be used to help decide when deciding whether or not an individual should be in the setting if they have a history of violence towards themselves or others. It can also be used to help decide if an individual is more likely to be aggressive and violent towards others. It is necessary to complete an individual risk assessment for those individuals who are aggressive or violent towards others.

### Assessing the likelihood of harm to self and others and removing or reducing unacceptable risk

A key part of writing any risk assessment, like those mentioned above, is assessing the likelihood of harm occurring; this is also a key part of writing individual risk assessments for children and other settings. If there is no likelihood of harm occurring to the individual or others, then a risk assessment is not needed. An individual risk assessment should be designed to remove or reduce the risk to an acceptable level. If, in spite of a risk assessment being in place, the person remains unacceptably high, then it might be the case that the school or setting does not meet the individual's needs; however, this would be a decision for senior members of staff to make.

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A risk assessment is usually designed to identify any **hazards** which may be present and then to identify the potential **risk** these hazards pose. Schools can carry out risk assessments for different individuals/activities, but if the findings of the risk assessment are significant then the risk assessment must be recorded on paper. As part of risk assessments, schools are expected to identify 'the hazards, how people might be harmed by them, what they have in place to control risk'.<sup>10</sup>

**Hazard:** something that may cause harm – risk assessments identify hazards themselves.

**Risk:** the likelihood of being harmed as a result of a hazard.

Therefore, for an individual risk assessment, practitioners need to decide what the young person may do to harm others), who may be harmed if this behaviour occurs, and what measures need to be in place to control the potential risk. Individual risk assessments must identify the triggers for the child's or young person's behaviour and how these triggers could lead to any risk. It should also give detailed information about the steps to be taken in the event the young person becomes aggressive and/or violent, in order to minimise/reduce the risk of harm to others (and themselves).

### Research activity

Having appropriate risk assessments in place is part of a school's health and safety responsibilities. The following website will give you more information about a school's or setting's health and safety responsibilities: [zzed.uk/11783-has](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-has)



## Following the setting's policies and procedure

Finally, any individual risk assessment must always take into account the setting's policies. As we have mentioned numerous times, behaviour policies ensure that staff are fair and consistent in their sanctions, but they are also designed to keep staff and children / young people safe on the premises. Therefore, any behaviour risk assessments must be written with the behaviour policy in mind. In most cases, a setting's behaviour policy is already designed to reduce the risk of harm to staff and children on the premises and can be a valuable source of information. There are a number of other policies that all settings are required to have, including (but not limited to):

- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Health and safety policy
- First aid policy
- Medical conditions policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- **Positive handling** policy

**Positive handling:** this is when the staff members in a school or other setting are required to physically restrain a child or young person for their own safety or the safety of others. This is not something which should be carried out by untrained practitioners and should always be a last resort.



**Did you know?**

There is a list of positive handling techniques which the government has provided. All settings must have a copy of this list and it must be updated regularly. This list can be found at [zzed.uk/11783-has](https://www.zzed.uk/11783-has)

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<sup>10</sup> Department for Education – Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safety-advice-for-schools/responsibilities-and-duties-for-schools>

#### 4.14 Revision questions

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1. Identify **two** circumstances where it might be necessary to create an individual risk assessment for a child or young person.
2. Explain why it is important to take an individual's prior history into account when supporting them with their behaviour.
3. Which **one** of the following is the purpose of an individual risk assessment?
  - A** To create a list of the individual's triggers and warning signs.
  - B** To explain why the child or young person should go to a different school.
  - C** To write down all the dangerous things the individual has done in the past.
  - D** To help reduce or remove the risk that the individual poses to themselves.
4. Give **two** reasons why the setting's or school's behaviour policy should be reviewed as part of an individual risk assessment.

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## Answers to Revision Questions

### Chapter 4.1

1. **Award 1 mark each, up to a maximum of 4 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - Stage of social development the child / young person is at (1)
  - The child's / young person's ability to understand social norms (1)
  - The child's / young person's ability to relate to others (1)
  - The child's / young person's level of empathy (1)
  - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (1)
  - The child's / young person's stage of emotional development (1)
  - The child's / young person's ability to name and manage their own emotions (1)
  - The child's / young person's level of maturity (1)
  - The child's / young person's stage of physical development (1)
  - The development stage of the child's / young person's gross and/or fine motor skills (1)
  - Body changes as a result of puberty (1)
2. **Award up to 2 marks for each valid way in which a child's or young person's behaviour, with an explanation. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - If a child has a physical disability (1) this can affect their ability to take part in activities with peers and this can lead to feelings of frustration (1)
  - Certain conditions, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (1), may make it difficult for the child / young person to understand social norms (1)
  - Certain conditions, such as ASD (1), may make it difficult for the child to relate to others (1)
  - Some individuals with SEND may find it difficult to self-regulate (name and manage their own emotions) (1) and this can lead to instances of unwanted behaviour (1)
  - Children and young people may have communication difficulties (1) which can lead to incidences of undesirable behaviour (1)
3. **Award up to 2 marks for each valid explanation of how the changes which affect an individual's behaviour. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - Individuals going through puberty may need more sleep than usual (1). This can lead to behavioural issues (1).
  - During puberty, individuals can experience a rollercoaster of emotions which can lead to behavioural issues (1)
  - During puberty the body is flooded with hormones (1), which can cause behavioural issues (1)
  - The body changes rapidly during puberty (1) and this may be difficult for the individual to cope with (1)
4. **Award up to 2 marks for an appropriate explanation of what language delay is. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Language delay occurs when a child / young person has difficulties with understanding or using spoken language (1)
  - Language delay can be directly caused by conditions such as Down's syndrome or hearing loss (1). It can also occur independently (1)
  - Language delay can cause children / young people to become frustrated if their wishes and feelings are not known (1)

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1. **Award up to 2 marks for each explanation of an environmental factor which influences young people's behaviour, up to a maximum of 4 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Children and young people can be affected by their lack of self-esteem. If young people have low self-esteem, this can have a negative impact on how they interact with their peers and adults in the setting (1).
  - Children's and young people's SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) can influence their behaviour in educational settings (1). This could be because the individual is emotionally at a different rate from their peers (1). Alternatively, the individual may not be able to carry out the same activities as their peers due to physical limitations (1).
  - The child's / young person's age may also influence how they behave in school (1). Young people may not yet have developed their communication skills to such an extent that they can't express their wishes and feelings known to others, and this can lead to frustration (1). They may not have sufficiently developed the fine and gross motor skills which they need for the chosen activities; this can also lead to frustration (1).
2. **Answer B – Self-esteem [1 mark]**
3. **Award up to 2 marks for a valid description of how family circumstances can influence young people's behaviour. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - The structure of the family in which they live can influence the way in which they behave (1). Children and young people may need extra support if they have complex family circumstances (1).
  - There are many different types of family, including blended and step-families, which can be difficult for the child or young person to get used to living with new people (1).
  - The style of parenting a child's or young person's parents employ can influence how they behave in school (1). Uninvolved parents may not be supportive or may not try to improve their child's behaviour or may simply not be interested (1).
  - The socio-economic background the child or young person is from can influence how they behave in schools or other settings (1). Those who come from poor backgrounds may experience greater barriers to their learning and how they progress (1). Those who come from more secure economic backgrounds (1).
4. **Award up to 2 marks for a valid explanation of why it is important to deal with bullying and discrimination as soon as staff are made aware of it. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Bullying and discrimination can have a profound effect on the individual (1). Young people may become withdrawn and/or refuse to attend school (1). They may start to act up behaviourally instead (1). Bullying and discrimination can have a negative impact on a young person's mental health and well-being (1).

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5. Award marks in the following bands up to a maximum of 12 marks, plus up to 3 marks for QWC. Accept other appropriate responses.

- AO1 = 4 marks
- AO2 = 4 marks
- AO3 = 4 marks
- QWC = 3 marks

Generic levelled mark scheme:

<b>Band 4 (10–12 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AO1 – <b>Clear</b> and <b>precise</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>• AO2 – Application of all <b>relevant</b> knowledge to the context</li> <li>• AO3 – <b>Comprehensive, effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussion with <b>rational</b> and <b>balanced</b> judgements that consider the importance</li> <li>• Answer with <b>comprehensive</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>
<b>Band 3 (7–9 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AO1 – <b>Mostly</b> clear and <b>generally</b> precise knowledge and understanding</li> <li>• AO2 – Application of <b>mostly relevant</b> knowledge to the context</li> <li>• AO3 – <b>Mostly effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that consider the importance with judgements that consider the importance</li> <li>• Answer with <b>reasonable</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>
<b>Band 2 (4–6 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AO1 – <b>Some (but limited)</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>• AO2 – <b>Limited</b> application of knowledge to the context</li> <li>• AO3 – <b>Some effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that consider the importance with judgements that consider the importance</li> <li>• <b>Basic</b> answer with <b>limited</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>
<b>Band 1 (1–3 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AO1 – <b>Minimal and unfocused</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>• AO2 – <b>Little</b> application of knowledge to the context</li> <li>• AO3 – <b>Limited effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that consider the importance with weak judgements to consider the importance</li> <li>• <b>Basic</b> answer with <b>limited</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>

0 marks = Answer uncreditable.

Quality of written communication (QWC) = 3 marks

<b>3 marks</b>	Well-structured and clearly expressed answer. Effective use of language. Wide range of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>2 marks</b>	Sufficiently structured and a generally clearly expressed answer. Good grammar. Good range of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>1 mark</b>	Poorly structured answer that lacks some clarity. Some errors not altering meaning. Limited range of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>0 marks</b>	No answer, or an unstructured answer with inappropriate language.

Indicative content:

Individual factors which may be influencing Jemima's behaviour; explanation relevant to her situation; and suggestions for what practitioners might do to help Jemima.

- **Low self-esteem.** If Jemima has low self-esteem this may be influencing her behaviour in the classroom; this may also be a possible explanation for why she is so withdrawn and does not approach other children and make new friends. Practitioners will need to support Jemima which are designed to improve her self-esteem. They may also encourage her attempts to make friends. Making more friends may also, consequently, improve Jemima's self-esteem.

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- **Any special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Jemima might have.** Jemima has not been diagnosed already. If Jemima has unmet SEND needs, this might explain why she does not engage in the classroom and finds it difficult to interact with other children. If Jemima has SEND needs which have already been diagnosed, these needs may not be met and practitioners may need further training to help them to meet her needs. If Jemima has undiagnosed SEND needs, then the class teacher will need to refer her to a specialist school so that the appropriate agencies can be contacted.
- **Jemima's age.** Jemima is only five years old and as such may simply be struggling to have her wishes and feelings known. She may be worried about getting things wrong. She may also have limited experience of interacting with other children. Practitioners need to support Jemima in learning to make her wishes and feelings known and to learn to interact with her peers.

**Environmental factors which may be influencing Jemima's behaviour; explanations for her behaviour; factors which might be relevant to her situation; and suggestions for what practitioners might do to support her.**

- **Culture and religious beliefs.** The culture and religious beliefs which Jemima has may be influencing her behaviour in the classroom. It may be that she has been excluded from the setting at times in the classroom and may not understand how she should be interacting with her peers. Practitioners need to find out as much as they can about Jemima's culture and her religious and cultural beliefs in order to support her in becoming more confident in the classroom.
- **Care history.** Jemima's care history could be having a profound effect on her behaviour in the classroom and may be the reason she appears to be withdrawn and struggles to interact with her peers. Practitioners need to find out as much as they can about the circumstances of Jemima's life, for example, whether she lives with her parent/s or whether she is in care. Practitioners need to find out whether these circumstances have changed at all in her life and how this may be influencing her behaviour.
- **Family circumstances.** Jemima's family circumstances may encompass a range of factors including family structure, parenting styles and/or socio-economic background. These factors may be influencing the way in which Jemima is behaving while in the setting. Practitioners need to find out as much as they can about Jemima's family circumstances in order to support her in the future.

**Educational factors which may be influencing Jemima's behaviour; explanations for her behaviour; factors which might be relevant to her situation; and suggestions for what practitioners might do to support her.**

- **Bullying and/or discrimination.** As Jemima is obviously struggling to interact with her peers and friends, this may be the result of bullying. Practitioners will need to observe Jemima in the classroom and in the playground to establish whether or not bullying is taking place. If bullying must be dealt with in line with the setting's behaviour policy, practitioners need to provide support to deal with what she has experienced.
- **Peer relationships.** We have already seen that Jemima is struggling to interact with her peers and finds interacting with them incredibly difficult. This may be due to some factors related to her age, but because Jemima needs support in learning how to interact appropriately with her peers, practitioners need to get to the root cause, practitioners may need to observe Jemima at length in the classroom and in the playground.
- **Relationships between children / young people and practitioners.** It is important that children and young people are able to form strong relationships with their practitioners in the classroom/setting. It may be that Jemima has yet to form a strong bond with her classroom practitioner. It is important that a classroom practitioner takes Jemima's needs into account when forging a strong bond with her. If Jemima has a strong bond with at least one practitioner, she is more likely to feel more secure and inclined to take moderate risks. This adult practitioner needs to know her likes and dislikes, in order to discover what makes her tick and to support her to be more confident in the classroom.

**Accept other appropriate responses.**

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## Chapters 4.3 and 4.4

1. **Award 1 mark for each element of self-concept given, up to a maximum of 3 marks.** Self-concept is made up of the following three elements:
  - Self-image (1)
  - Self-esteem (1)
  - Ideal self (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each correct point given, up to a maximum of 2 marks. All responses. [2 marks]**
  - The development of a child's existential self is part of the way in which self-concept is formed (1)
  - The development of the child's existential self can begin as early as two years old (1)
  - This is where the child begins to realise that they are a separate entity/individual in their world (1)
  - The development of a child's existential self is influenced by the interaction with their world/environment (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each correct point made up, to a maximum of 2 marks. All responses. [2 marks]**
  - Individuals with negative self-concept may refuse to engage with behaviour systems in school (1)
  - These individuals often have low self-esteem and may feel they are being punished (1)
  - They may engage in self-sabotage activities such as unwanted or undesired behaviour (1)
  - These individuals may feel that as they are likely to get into trouble anyway, they wish (1)
  - Parents of these children and young people are unlikely to be supportive in trying to improve their child's behaviour (1)
  - Behaving badly may be a way of attracting attention in school and/or at home (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each correct point made, up to a maximum of 2 marks. All responses. [2 marks]**
  - Children and young people with low self-esteem are less likely to conform to the school or setting (1)
  - They would rather misbehave than fail at an activity (1)
  - They may expect to be treated badly as this is how they have been treated (1)
  - They are likely to have trust issues (1) and will struggle to form relationships (1)
5. **Award 1 mark for each correct response, up to a maximum of 2 marks. [2 marks]**

**Answer B** – They notice their gender (1)

**Answer C** – They begin to notice physical attributes such as their eye colour (1)

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## Chapter 4.5

1. **Award 1 mark for each reason given as to why children and young people behave differently in different social contexts, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Slight deviation acceptable. [3 marks]**
  - In order to be able to focus on learning in educational settings (1)
  - In order to develop impulse control (1)
  - In order to conform to social norms (1)
  - In order to be able to make friends and maintain relationships (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each correct response, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Acceptable responses. [2 marks]**
  - Very young children (1)
  - Teenagers (1)
  - Individuals with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) (1)
  - Individuals with poor self-esteem (1)
  - Children and young people who have suffered abuse and/or neglect (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each correct point made, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Acceptable responses. [2 marks]**
  - Children who do not learn to modify their behaviour in educational settings and learn new things (1)
  - They will disrupt the learning of others in the setting (1)
  - So that they can achieve and get the most out of learning opportunities (1)
  - So that they can work collaboratively and communicate effectively with others (1)
  - Children and young people also need to learn to modify their behaviour in educational setting, such as in the classroom or playground, so that their behaviour does not affect or disrupt other learners (1)

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1. **Award 1 mark for each reason given, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Award 1 mark for each explanation given, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Because of regular staff turnover in larger schools and settings (1)
    - Regular resharing and discussing behaviour management policies and procedures so that new staff understand the systems and what is required of them (1)
  - It will give staff ownership of behaviour management policies and procedures (1)
    - If staff are able to be involved in the development of behaviour management policies, they will feel they have ownership of them and are more likely to be consistent (1)
  - So that there is consistency in terms of how behaviour is managed across the setting (1)
    - This means that any staff member in the setting can deal effectively with any young person, whether the individual is known to them or not (1)
    - It also ensures that there is consistency in the rewards and sanctions (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - They ensure that everyone is following the rules which are designed to make the school safe in school, such as not running in the corridors (1)
  - They ensure that everyone in the building is aware of the rules which make children and young people safe (1)
  - They offer rewards and sanctions to help reinforce the safety rules which protect the well-being of everyone in the building (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made, up to a maximum of 4 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - They ensure that all staff know how they can reward or sanction children and young people, whether or not they are familiar with the individual (1)
  - They ensure that all staff, children and young people understand what behaviour management and following the rules (1)
  - They ensure that all children and/or young people in the setting are dealt with in line with staff members' own opinions or beliefs (1)
  - Effective behaviour policies and processes help to set realistic expectations for all people, regardless of their age or stage of development (1)
  - They ensure that children and young people are able to learn in a calm environment, not disrupted by others (1)
  - Effective behaviour management policies and processes provide opportunities to celebrate success (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each correct response, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [3 marks]**
  - Stickers (1)
  - Team points or house points (1)
  - Raffle tickets (1)
  - Golden time (1)
  - Attendance awards and prizes (1)
  - Certificates (1)
  - Sharing good work on boards and in assemblies (1)
5. **Give 1 mark for each valid point made, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Children and young people could be asked to take part in a school or class assembly (1)
  - Using suggestion boxes (1)
  - Children should be allowed the right to speak out if they think something is wrong, in the correct way (1)
  - Having class representatives who meet with the head teacher and/or senior staff to discuss behaviour management policy and procedures (1)

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1. **Award up to 1 mark for a valid explanation of what is meant by consistency of care for children and young people. Accept other appropriate responses. [1 mark]**
  - Consistency of care is when the main adults who care for the child or young person are the same throughout their childhood and adolescence (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point given in a description of how a lack of consistency of care can affect a child's or young person's behaviour, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - A lack of consistency of care can have a profound impact (1) on how a child or young person develops emotionally (1)
  - Children and young people may be angry about their change in circumstances (1)
  - School or setting staff may witness the child showing unwanted behaviour (1)
  - The way in which the child or young person behaves in school may change (1) or they may suddenly become more withdrawn (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each way given in which culture and community can affect a child's or young person's behaviour, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Award a further 1 mark for each valid point given in how culture and community can affect children's or young people's behaviour, up to a maximum of 4 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - There may be differential treatment between the males and females of a community (1)
    - Because boys may be valued over girls in the culture/community, there may be more support for encouraging their son to follow school rules (1) or to stay in school (1) than for their daughter (1) may be given to him (1)
    - Some boys and young men may struggle to accept the authority of school or setting staff members (1)
  - There may be a difference in views regarding the importance of education in different communities (1)
    - In Traveller, Roma and Gypsy communities, young people rarely attend school until they are of school age as education is not deemed to be of sufficient importance (1)
    - Traveller, Roma and Gypsy children and young people often have to travel around the country for extended periods of time with their families (1)
4. (a) **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given for why Dav may be behaving in this way, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Dav has gone through a major transition in having to start a new school (1) in Year 6 (1); he may not have been prepared for this transition by his parents (1)
  - Dav may be going through (or may have gone through) other transitions (1) or may be unaware of (1)

(b) **Award 1 mark for each valid suggestion of where you could find out more information in order to support him with his behaviour in the classroom, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**

  - You could talk to his parents/carers to find out more information (1)
  - You could talk to staff at his former school (1) – in particular, his former classroom staff who used to work with him (1)

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(c) **Award 1 mark for each valid piece of information listed which might be included in the behaviour management plan, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Award 1 mark for each valid piece of information which could be included in the behaviour management plan, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [6 marks]**

- The child's or young person's likes and dislikes could be included (1)
  - Knowing their likes and dislikes can be useful when you are trying to build a positive relationship with them (1) and/or you are just getting to know them (1)
  - Avoiding the child's or young person's dislikes (where possible) to prevent them becoming emotionally overwhelmed (1)
- Strategies for support (1)
  - This includes strategies for supporting the child or young person when they are likely to go into meltdown (1), and/or strategies for helping them to calm down once they have become distressed and gone into meltdown (1)
  - These strategies may include things to avoid; for example, talking to them while they are still overwhelmed (1)
- Possible triggers (1)
  - These are events or actions which may cause the child's or young person's behaviour to worsen (1) and may cause their behaviour to worsen or deteriorate (1)
  - Avoiding triggers, where possible, could prevent a potential meltdown (1) or prevent the child's or young person's behaviour from deteriorating (1)
- Warning signs (1)
  - These are signs which the child or young person may exhibit before their behaviour is likely to rise (1)
  - Certain signs may indicate a relatively low level of anxiety (1), while others may indicate an advanced level of anxiety (1)
  - Knowing these warning signs for a child or young person could help you to develop correct strategies for support at the right time to prevent the behaviour from worsening (1)
- Individual behaviour targets (1)
  - These should only be used with certain children or young people where it is appropriate for everyone (1)
  - Any targets set for the individual should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timed / time sensitive) (1)

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1. **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given about why it is important to use open body language when dealing with children and young people, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Closed or negative body language can be very threatening to children or young people (1)
  - Closed or negative body language could cause a child or young person to feel that they are already feeling overwhelmed and/or agitated (1)
  - When we use open body language, we are less threatening to children and young people (1)
  - Open body language shows that we are calm/happy/approachable (1)
2. **Give 1 mark for each valid explanation of how pointing at someone or something can be a positive gesture, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Give 1 mark for each valid explanation of how pointing at someone or something can be a negative gesture, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**

**Positive uses of the pointing gesture:**

  - To indicate or direct a child's or young person's attention to a specific object or person (1)
  - To help a person with English as an additional language and/or limited English skills (1)
  - When dealing with behaviour, you may indicate to a child or young person that they are not allowed to do something (1)
  - You may wish an individual to sit in their chair (after having told them that they are not allowed to stand) and therefore, simply point to it (1)
  - A neutral expression must be used if the pointing gesture is to be seen as positive (1)

**Negative uses of the pointing gesture:**

  - Pointing at someone can be perceived as an intimidating gesture (1) especially if accompanied by an angry tone of voice and negative facial expressions
  - To point at someone in an embarrassing or derogatory way (1) or to draw attention to someone in an attempt to embarrass or humiliate them (1)
  - Indicating that you wish someone to do something (for example, to sit down) can be perceived as a demand (1). When accompanied by negative facial expressions, this could be perceived as threatening (1)
3. **Give 1 mark for a valid reason why a child or young person might not be comfortable with close proximity to them. Accept other appropriate responses. [1 mark]**
  - If the adult is angry or not calm, the child or young person may be intimidated (1)
  - If the child or young person has been physically and/or sexually abused (1)
  - If the child or young person has another reason to be mistrustful of adults (1)
  - If the adult is at a much higher level or is taller than the child or young person (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when explaining why it is better to use a calm tone of voice when attempting to calm down a child who is emotionally overwhelmed, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Using an angry or negative tone of voice is more likely to inflame the situation (1)
  - Many young people with behavioural issues are often exposed to a lot of shouting and swearing at home (1), and, therefore, they are unlikely to pay any attention to shouting (1)
  - Using a firm and confident, yet calm, tone of voice can be reassuring to someone in an emotional crisis (1)
  - Continuing to use a calm tone of voice may encourage the individual to calm down (1) and also show them that no one is angry or upset with them – something which they are worried about (1)

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1. **Award 1 mark for the correct response given. [1 mark]**  
**Answer C** – I'm pleased you remembered to include commas in your writing
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made to justify the need to establish an approach when working with children and young people in schools and other settings. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - The majority of children and young people in a school or other educational setting feel most secure when there is a structured approach/routine in place (1)
  - Children and young people with conditions such as autism spectrum disorders thrive and cope in schools and educational settings with a structured approach and routine (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made while explaining how formative feedback affects the quality of a child's or young person's work, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Formative feedback has a generally positive tone but often includes suggestions for improvement from the adults in the setting (1)
  - Used correctly, formative feedback will not upset the child or young person and they are likely to take the feedback on board (1)
  - Formative feedback gives specific examples to the child or young person of how they can improve in their work or performance (1) rather than general comments that are positive but will not improve the individual's work (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when explaining how establishing positive relationships with children / young people can help to motivate and maintain their engagement, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Positive relationships can be seen as an external motivator (1) as children are more likely to do things for adults they trust, which they wouldn't do for themselves (1)
  - Once the child or young person realises that an adult can be trusted, they are more likely to trust them and be motivated by them (1)
  - Positive relationships between pupils and staff members are based on mutual respect and trust. A child is more likely to be motivated by an adult who shows them respect (1)
5. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when explaining the meaning of positive reinforcement, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Award 1 mark for each correct example of positive reinforcement, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - Positive reinforcement occurs when we positively reinforce a child displaying a desired behaviour (1)
  - Emphasis is placed on the child or young person who is displaying desired behaviour (1)
  - Attention is given to those individuals who are displaying unwanted or undesirable behaviours (1)

**Examples of positive reinforcement include (any two from):**

  - Praising the child or young person (1)
  - Giving positive feedback (1)
  - Rewarding the child or young person (1)

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6. Award 1 mark for each valid reward system given, up to a maximum of 3 marks point made when explaining how incentive and recognition schemes can be used to influence children's / young people's behaviour, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Accept of 3 marks]

**Examples of incentive and recognition schemes:**

- Stickers (1)
- Raffle tickets / lottery tickets (1)
- Points systems / house points / team points (1)
- Reward charts (1)
- Prizes (1)

**Explanation:**

- Wishing to obtain desirable rewards can help to motivate Zak and other children (1)
- There is no limit to the types of rewards out there, so they can be chosen to suit the needs of children / young people who attend it (for example, Zak) (1)
- Whole setting incentive and recognition schemes offer consistency, which children are more likely to 'buy in' to them (1)
- Any adult in the school/setting can use rewards to help motivate Zak and other children (1)
- Rewards are a form of extrinsic motivation which can be used to develop positive behaviour (1)

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1. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made explaining how physical activity can regulate, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses.**
  - Children who engage in regular physical activity are known to be calmer
  - Physical activity can be used when a child is becoming overwhelmed or help them to self-regulate and to calm down (1)
  - Some children and young people have a specific need which can only be met by physical activity (1); allowing them to meet this need is a way of allowing them to regulate
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made describing a classroom activity which encourages children and young people to reflect upon their own emotions, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Practitioners could read/share an appropriate story with the child or young person
  - This story/book must be designed to support children and young people to reflect upon others' emotions (1)
  - The story/book could initially be used to help the child or young person to identify the emotions they are experiencing (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when explaining how to help a child or young person develop social skills, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate response. [2 marks]**
  - Play games with them, such as dominoes, cards, board games and other games
  - These games should be carefully supervised by an adult who should control the game, take turns (1) and should be prepared to support the child or young person
  - These games should initially be played in pairs or very small groups (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid suggestion made about why it is important for children and young people to be given opportunities to socialise, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Children and young people need to learn how to play and interact with others
  - Children and young people need to learn how to work as part of a team
  - Children and young people with some conditions such as autism spectrum conditions, hyperactivity disorder (1) or other special educational needs and/or disabilities may need extra supported opportunities to socialise as they may find this particularly challenging
5. **Award 1 mark for each valid strategy suggested as to how a child or young person can develop resilience when presented with a problem to solve, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**

**Strategy given, award up to 1 mark for a valid explanation of how this strategy can help develop resilience, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [3 marks]**

  - By teaching Cara specific problem-solving skills (1)
    - Cara will develop a set of skills which she can use to solve any problem
  - By adults modelling making mistakes (1)
    - Cara will see that everyone makes mistakes and this is not something to be ashamed of
  - By adults modelling that mistakes can be learned from (1)
    - Cara will begin to see that mistakes represent learning opportunities
  - By setting tasks at an appropriate level for Cara (1)
    - Cara should be encouraged to 'have a go' and not be put off because the task is being too difficult (1)
  - By creating a supportive environment where Cara and the other young people are encouraged to take risks (1)
    - Cara will feel safe and supported in the learning environment (1) and will be encouraged to make mistakes (1) and/or take reasonable risks (1)

1. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made while explaining why it is important to respond to behaviour as an individual rather than the individual themselves, up to a maximum of 4 appropriate responses. [4 marks]**
  - It is important that we separate the behaviour from the child or young person (1)
  - Children and young people need to understand that practitioners are not responding to them with the individual themselves (1)
  - It is important that children and young people understand that they are responsible for their behaviour (1), otherwise they will feel that they have no option but to misbehave (1)
  - Focusing on the child or young person rather than the behaviour is known as personification upon the self-esteem of individuals (1)
  - Using negative terms to label the child or young person can end up developing a self-fulfilling prophecy (1); in other words, children and young people will start to believe what they are called (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when describing how using appropriate rewards can improve behaviour in a school or educational setting, up to a maximum of 2 appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Rewards are a form of extrinsic motivation (1) which can help to motivate children and young people to improve their intrinsic motivation kicks in (1)
  - Appropriate rewards can help to motivate children and young people to follow the school's behaviour policy (1) and to try harder with classwork, homework, etc. (1)
  - Appropriate incentive and recognition schemes allow practitioners to be consistent when issuing rewards to children and young people (1); they should be able to reward the child or young person, even if they don't know them, in line with the school's behaviour policy (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when giving the circumstances when it is appropriate to remove a child or young person from an escalating situation, up to a maximum of 3 appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - If the child or young person goes into meltdown / becomes emotionally overwhelmed in the classroom (1)
  - If the child or young person is at risk of hurting themselves or others in the classroom (1)
  - If the child or young person is unlikely to be able to begin to regulate their behaviour in the situation for any reason (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given as to why it is important for practitioners to be fair and consistent when responding to behaviour, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Award 1 mark for each response. [3 marks]**
  - In order for practitioners to show that they are following the school's/schools' behaviour policy (1)
  - Children and young people are unlikely to respond positively in the future if they feel they haven't dealt with them in a fair and consistent manner (1)
  - Being fair and consistent means that each child / young person will receive the same consequences for breaking the same rule (1)
  - Practitioners who respond to behaviour in a fair and consistent manner will be more likely to be followed by the children / young people in the setting (1)

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5. Award 1 mark for each valid point made while explaining why it is important to have a whole setting behaviour policy when responding to behaviour, up to a maximum of 4 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]
- Following the whole setting policy means that all practitioners will respond in a consistent manner (1)
  - Whole setting policies mean that staff can deal fairly with an incident of behaviour whether or not they know the child / young person (1)
  - Children and young people are more likely to respect practitioners if they know the behaviour policy to deal with incidents of behaviour (1)
  - Children and young people are more likely to comply with any sanctions if they know the whole setting behaviour policy (1)
  - It is easier for new staff members to follow a whole setting behaviour policy if they know the incidences of behaviour (1)
6. Award marks in the following bands up to a maximum of 12 marks, plus up to 3 marks for QWC. Accept other appropriate responses.
- AO1 = 4 marks
  - AO2 = 4 marks
  - AO3 = 4 marks
  - QWC = 3 marks

**Generic levelled mark scheme:**

<b>Band 4 (10–12 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AO1 – <b>Clear</b> and <b>precise</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>AO2 – Application of all <b>relevant</b> knowledge to the context</li> <li>AO3 – <b>Comprehensive, effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that are supported by <b>rational</b> and <b>balanced</b> judgements that consider the importance</li> <li>Answer with <b>comprehensive</b> breadth and/or depth</li> </ul>
<b>Band 3 (7–9 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AO1 – <b>Mostly</b> clear and <b>generally</b> precise knowledge and understanding</li> <li>AO2 – Application of <b>mostly relevant</b> knowledge to the context</li> <li>AO3 – <b>Mostly effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that are supported by judgements that consider the importance</li> <li>Answer with <b>reasonable</b> breadth and/or depth with some <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>
<b>Band 2 (4–6 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AO1 – <b>Some (but limited)</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>AO2 – <b>Limited</b> application of knowledge to the context</li> <li>AO3 – <b>Some effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that are supported by judgements that consider the importance</li> <li><b>Basic</b> answer with <b>limited</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>
<b>Band 1 (1–3 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AO1 – <b>Minimal and unfocused</b> knowledge and understanding</li> <li>AO2 – <b>Little</b> application of knowledge to the context</li> <li>AO3 – <b>Limited effective</b> and <b>relevant</b> discussions that are supported by weak judgements to consider the importance</li> <li><b>Basic</b> answer with <b>limited</b> breadth and/or depth with <b>missing content</b></li> </ul>

0 marks = Answer uncreditable.

**Quality of written communication (QWC) = 3 marks**

<b>3 marks</b>	Well-structured and clearly expressed answer. Effective use of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>2 marks</b>	Sufficiently structured and a generally clearly expressed answer. Good grammar. Good range of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>1 mark</b>	Poorly structured answer that lacks some clarity. Some content not altering meaning. Limited range of appropriate technical terms used.
<b>0 marks</b>	No answer, or an unstructured answer with inappropriate content.

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**Indicative content:****Strategies suggested may include:**

- Being fair and consistent is essential when practitioners deal with Ahmet. Practitioners should ensure that all practitioners deal with Ahmet in the same way and that any behaviour management practices are being carefully followed.
- Focusing on the behaviour rather than the individual is also a key strategy. Practitioners working with Ahmet need to see the behaviour he exhibits rather than him as a person. They must be careful to label the behaviour rather than the person.
- Practitioners working with Ahmet must always ensure that they follow the same rules at all times and should refer to the student code of conduct where applicable.
- Practitioners may implement a scheme of appropriate incentives with Ahmet to prevent unwanted behaviour from occurring in the first place. Practitioners should know Ahmet's likes and dislikes in order to choose incentives which may help motivate him. Similarly, Ahmet should be aware of any sanctions which he may face if he is challenging or if he demonstrates unwanted behaviour. If the sanctions prove to be a sufficient deterrent for Ahmet, then practitioners need to consider individual sanctions for him, perhaps in conjunction with his family/caregivers.
- Practitioners should always use language which clarifies expectations and ensures that Ahmet knows what is expected of him at all times and there are no grey areas.
- Once Ahmet is engaging in unwanted behaviour and is becoming aggressive or emotionally overwhelmed, he should be provided a calm and safe environment and support to begin to recognise when he is becoming emotionally overwhelmed. Practitioners should learn to remove himself from situations before they become too volatile. Practitioners should provide a safe space for Ahmet to go to when he is becoming overwhelmed.
- Ahmet should be encouraged through co-regulation. All practitioners should build a responsive relationship, encourage a structured environment and support Ahmet to develop skills in order to deal with his emotions better.

**The evaluation for suggesting these strategies may include:**

- Any lack of consistency between practitioners working with Ahmet will lead to Ahmet feeling that he can behave badly with some practitioners and not others. This may leave Ahmet feeling that some adults are treating him unfairly if there is a lack of consistency between practitioners. Being fair and consistent in their approach with Ahmet may help to develop respect for these individuals.
- Focusing on the behaviour rather than on Ahmet as an individual means that Ahmet is not impacted negatively by any practitioners' interactions with him. If Ahmet is only reacting to things staff are saying about him, he is more likely to behave this way in the future, fulfilling prophecy. Labelling the child does not attempt to take into account the context of Ahmet's behaviour; it is important that staff start to understand why he is behaving this way.
- Following the setting's behaviour policy carefully and referring to any sanctions ensures that any member of staff in the building is able to deal with Ahmet evenly. It ensures that there is a consistency of approach in any sanctions which are applied.
- Getting to know Ahmet and finding out his likes and dislikes is more likely to be effective than about rewards which may motivate him. Practitioners should talk to him about his likes and dislikes. Similarly, it is important that practitioners know what sanctions are not effective; they will then be able to suggest alternative strategies.
- Using language which clarifies expectations means that Ahmet will always know what is expected of him in terms of behaviour and when he is completing his work. As he is new to the setting, this could be particularly important in helping him to settle in and to be able to cope with what is required of him.
- Removing Ahmet from the situation and teaching him to do this himself is a proactive strategy rather than a reactive strategy. This should be planned for and he should be encouraged to use the safe space which has been predetermined by him and his practitioners. As he is new to the setting, feeling very anxious and unsafe; giving him a safe space to go to when he is overwhelmed may help to combat some of these feelings.

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1. **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given for why giving individuals jobs in the classroom can help to improve behaviour, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Jobs/responsibilities can be given to children / young people as a reward (1)
  - Jobs/responsibilities can be given to individuals who don't always behave well (1) or to give them a sense of responsibility (1) or to improve their behaviour (1) or to prevent them from getting themselves into trouble at playtime (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for a valid point given for why it is important to involve parents in the setting approach, up to a maximum of 1 mark. Accept other appropriate responses. [1 mark]**
  - If children / young people know that their parents might be contacted, they are more likely to behave in a positive way (1)
  - If children / young people are aware that their successes may also be shared with their parents, this could be motivation to push them to achieve more (1)
3. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made when explaining why it is essential to set realistic expectations for all children / young people, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Practitioners should encourage all children / young people to achieve their potential (1)
  - If practitioners have low expectations of children / young people then they are not likely to achieve while in their care (1)
  - Having high, realistic expectations of children / young people means they are more likely to achieve in the long run (1)
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given as to why it is important to celebrate success, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [3 marks]**
  - Showing children / young people that it is acceptable to make mistakes and that it is just 'have a go' (1)
  - Children / young people will see that mistakes are nothing to be ashamed of (1)
  - Children / young people will see that we are all lifelong learners (1)
  - Individuals who are able to learn from their mistakes are more likely to succeed in the future (1)
  - Children / young people will understand that adults do not have all the answers and are learning as partners in learning (1)
  - Children / young people will realise that making mistakes is part of what learning is (1)

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1. **Award 1 mark for each set of circumstances identified where it might be necessary to conduct a risk assessment for a child or young person, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - Where children or young people have a prior history of aggression and/or others (1)
  - When it is necessary to reduce or remove the level of risk to the individual (1)
  - To assess the risk the individual poses to themselves or others (1)
2. **Award 1 mark for each valid point made while explaining why it is important to take the individual's history into account when planning how best to support them with their behaviour, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - To find out whether the individual has a history of hurting themselves or others (1)
  - To find out whether they have a history of risky behaviour – for example, using drugs or alcohol (1)
  - To find out the individual's triggers and/or warning signs (1)
  - To discover which strategies help the individual to calm down and self-regulate (1)
3. **Answer D** – To help reduce or remove the risk that the individual poses to themselves or others
4. **Award 1 mark for each valid reason given as to why the setting's or school's behaviour policy should be referred to when writing an individual risk assessment, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Accept other appropriate responses. [2 marks]**
  - To ensure that any measures stated in the risk assessment are fair and consistent with the school's/setting's behaviour policy (1)
  - A school's/setting's behaviour policy is already designed to reduce the risk of harm on the premises (1)
  - The behaviour policy may contain some useful ideas which can be included in the risk assessment (1)

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