

Exercise – When to Intervene?

Rationale

If individuals are presenting with multiple types of challenging behaviour it is important to prioritise which ones to tackle first. Trying to address multiple negative behaviours at the same time is extremely difficult, stressful and sadly has a tendency towards failure.

Instructions

Answer the checklist below for each of the specific behaviours observed (for example, running away, head-striking the environment, failure to eat). Behaviour which is life threatening, posing a serious health risk or dangerous to others needs prioritising the highest.

Checklist

Identified Behaviour: _____ Date: _____

Possible Result of Challenging Behaviour	Yes	No
1) Is the behaviour life threatening?	X	X
2) Does the behaviour pose a serious health risk?	X	X
3) Is the behaviour dangerous to others?	X	X
4) Is the behaviour likely to become more serious in the near future?	X	X
5) Is the behaviour of great concern to caregivers?	X	X
6) Does the behaviour significantly interfere with learning?	X	X
7) Has the behaviour been problematic for some time?	X	X
8) Does this behaviour significantly damage materials?	X	X
9) Does this behaviour interfere with community acceptance?	X	X