



COACH TO
COMMUNICATE

Function of Behavior

- 1 Identifying the function of the behavior, or why the behavior is happening, is important in choosing which replacement behavior to teach.
 - **Escape** is a function that serves to avoid or get away from a person, place, or thing.
 - **Attention** as a function serves to gain another person's attention. This can be seen in many forms of behavior. Appropriate ways to gain attention are - "excuse me", tapping someone on the shoulder, raising hand, etc.
 - **Tangible** as a function is when someone is trying to get an item or activity. Appropriate ways people gain access to things are - asking "can I have it?", reaching, pointing, walking toward desired items, etc.
 - **Automatic reinforcement** as a function is when a child is doing something that feels good while no one else is around. For example - flipping hands, head banging, or biting fingers.