Why is my child behaving this way?

Functions of Behavior

**Access to a tangible:** A child receives a preferred item or activity. (Access increases behavior, therefore reinforcement)

Ex: Whenever Suzy cries, her mom gives her a pacifier.

**Escape:** A child gets out of doing something that he or she does not want to do. (escape removes something negative so will still increase a behavior, therefore also reinforcement)

Ex: Bob asks to see the nurse when his teacher starts handing out the math test.

**Attention:** A child receives attention from those (parents, teacher, sibling, or peers) in the environment. (Access to attention increases behavior, therefore reinforcement)

Ex: Ralph made his class laugh when he said a bad word.

**Automatic:** A child receives some type of internal sensation. This does not rely on other people (and continues when alone) and are often referred to as self-stimulating or self-stimulatory. (Access increases behavior, therefore reinforcement)

Ex: When Sara cracks her knuckles, she feels tension release.

Resources: For more of an overview on ABA, check out the resources below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnyYwWlenJg
https://asatonline.org/for-parents/learn-more-about-specific-treatments/applied-behavior-analysis-aba/

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