

The positive behaviour support process

FOR PROFESSIONALS

The positive behaviour support (PBS) process involves the assessment of kids' behaviours, needs and strengths followed by the development, implementation, and review of a Behaviour Support Plan (BSP).

Four stages of positive behaviour support

For PBS to be most effective, it can be broken into four distinct stages. Each of these stages is vital to ensure kids' needs are met and continually supported.

Assessment – this stage involves:

- identifying behaviours of concern and their severity
- collecting information through interviews and observations
- interpreting the information gathered

Development – this stage involves:

- identifying strengths and areas for skill development
- designing targeted response strategies
- developing a BSP with the child/teen and their carer, clearly articulating the response strategies

Implementation – this stage involves:

- discussing the completed BSP with the child/teen and their carer
- introducing strategies to those implementing the BSP
- specific teaching/coaching of strategies as required

Review – this stage involves:

- monitoring of BSP implementation
- testing strategies for effectiveness
- adapting/changing the BSP based on monitoring/review feedback.

The focus of PBS is often on BSP development. However, successful PBS requires the ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of strategies. This ensures that a BSP continues to meet kids' needs and is more likely to be effective. Remember that BSPs are living documents!



Next Steps

When behaviours of concern are identified, it's important that caseworkers, kids, carers and practitioners work together to assess the behaviours; develop and implement the plan; and review effectiveness. Clear, open communication about worries and successes helps PBS build skills and reduce behaviours of concern.