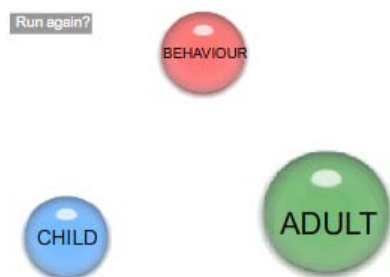


What makes behaviour challenging, Nick?

Challenging behaviour is any behaviour which creates difficulties for the person doing it or those around them. Not all challenging behaviour is a problem for the person doing it. Some patterns of behaviour work in the short term. Some children learn to get their own way by threatening tantrums. Some adults continue to bully to get their own way.

What is challenging in one situation may not be challenging in another. It may even be entirely appropriate as a behaviour in another setting. Similarly, what one adult finds unacceptable, another might tolerate. Behaviour that seems insignificant to a teacher may be very threatening to another pupil in the class.

While it is generally regarded as acceptable to kill your enemy in war it is not acceptable in any other situation. The point is that there are no absolutes about behaviour - it is always relative to the context.



Who experiences challenging behaviour?

Children who exhibit challenging behaviour are not always aware of the effect it has on other people. Children with a range of learning disabilities and medical conditions exhibit behaviours which challenge other people without necessarily being conscious of what they are doing.

Professionals need to separate the child, the behaviour and their own response.