Questions About Functional Behavior  
(Matson & Vollmer, 1995)

What does it assess?
• Functions of behaviours of concern - includes attention, sensory/ non-social, tangible, escape, and physical health conditions

Who is it suitable for?
• Designed for children or adults with developmental disabilities.  
• May be useful for adults with ABI.

Who is it not suitable for?

How is it administered?
• Carers complete the scale and provide a rating for each item.

How is it scored/ interpreted?
• A speech pathologist, psychologist or other professional scores the items to determine the functions of each behaviour identified as a BOC.
• Any ambiguities or unclear patterns can be resolved by direct observation of the person in situations thought to initiate the behaviour (i.e., hypothesis testing).

What is its availability?

How does it contribute to a communication assessment for someone with behaviours of concern?
• Identifying the functions of behaviours of concern.
• Must be used after the behaviours of concern have been clearly identified - for people with ABI, this can be done using the Overt Behaviour Scale (see Fact sheet for a complementary assessment for ABI).
• Behaviours with attention, tangible and escape functions can be replaced by teaching appropriate communication (determined from a communication assessment).
• Behaviours found to have a physical function may require investigation by a medical practitioner.
• Behaviours with sensory/ non-social functions may need to be further explored using an environmental assessment.
References


