

INFORMAL GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

Many of the behavioral definitions are based on a publication by Patterson, Ray, Shaw, and Cobb deposited with the National Auxiliary Publication Service, NAPS, c/o Microfiche Publications, 305 E. 46th, New York, NY 10017.

The following definitions should be viewed as informal suggestions, and in no way are all encompassing. You may wish to create your own definitions, or change what we have provided as examples; one may even decide to scan the more popular behavioral checklists for ideas. Remember, !Observe! templates are very easy to construct. . .so go ahead and be creative. . .but don't forget to operationally define your terms and be consistent in your labeling of !Observe buttons.

Format: Behavioral Definition / (Abbreviation)/ Category or Class Loading / Templates

Informal Definitions:

- **Can't Wait (CW) NEG, ADHD:** Unable to take turns, to wait for adult or peer attention, impulsive, showing agitation when made to delay needs.
- **Cooperative Work and Play (CWP) POS, MR, AUTISM:** Works well with others, able to sustain a direction and engage in activities with adults and peers.
- **Compliance (CO) POS, ED, MR, ADHD, CRIT INC, AUTISM:** Follows instructions and commands.
- **Compulsive/Perseverative (C/P) NEG, STREAM OF THOUGHT, AUTISM, MENTAL STATUS:** Repetition of language and /or behavior, obsessed with single thought, similar responses to different situations.
- **Confused Date/Time (CDT) ORIENTATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Confuses time and dates, locations.
- ***Cry (CR) NEG, ED:** Individual engages in public crying.
- **Daydreams (DD) NEG, ED, ADHD:** Seems lost in thought, not tracking work at hand but distracted by internal cognitions, emotions.
- **Demand Attention (DA) NEG, MR, AUTISM:** Engages in activity to cause adults or peers to cease what they are doing and attend to client.
- **Denial of Responsibility (DEN) INSIGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** No insight in how they effect their environment; externalizers shifting blame to others.
- **Destructiveness (DE) NEG, ED, MR, CRITIC INC:** Destroying one's own work, property, not caring for materials, defacing property.
- **Disorganized (DI) NEG, ADHD:** Unable to work in an orderly fashion, workstation cluttered, often loses items, homework assignments, works inefficiently.
- **Disoriented (DIS) ORIENTATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Confused location, persons, persons, poor awareness of self.

- **Distortions (DT) STREAM OF THOUGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** Misinterprets information, reality distortions, cognitive slippage and faulty associations.
- **Distracted (DR) ATTENTION, MENTAL STATUS:** Attention wanders, responds to interfering stimuli/irrelevant stimuli.
- **Distraction / Auditory (D/A) NEG, ADHD:** Easily take off task by auditory sounds, others talking, noises, tracking auditory “noise” instead of the correct auditory signal.
- **Distraction / Motor (D/M) NEG, ADHD:** Distracted by others’ behavior, watching what others do instead of following instructions, tracking motor “noise” rather than following motor cues offered by teacher.
- **Distraction / Visual (D/V) NEG, ADHD:** Distracted by visual stimuli other than those given by teacher.
- **Enuresis/Encopresis (EE) NEG, MR:** Unable to control elimination functions, may or may not relate to a medical condition, which must be ruled out.
- **Excessive Motor Movement (EXMTRMV) NEG, ED:** Hyperkinetic body movement which, over a period of time, interferes with learning.
- **Explosive (EX) NEG, ADHD:** Engages in extreme behavior with little or no provocation, unusual intense reaction to situations typically not requiring a high level of intensity.
- **Eye Contact (EY) POS, AUTISM:** Able to track signal from noise, following the instructions of a caregiver or teacher by having visual contact with them.
- **False Memory (FM) MEMORY, MENTAL STATUS:** Confabulations, may create personal or other information to fill in memory gaps, gives account of historical events based on personal, rather than accurate, data.
- **Fear/Anxiety (FR) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Unusual fears not usually associated with threats to body or self well being, tracks internal anxiety which effects performance negatively.
- **Fidgets In Place (FIP) NEG, ADHD:** Cannot remain in seat without excessive motor movement, seems to be used to reflect excess energy or need for stimulation, usually results in being off task.
- **Forgetful (FG) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Complaints about forgetting names, places, persons, which were well known before.
- **Hyperkinetic (HY) NEG, ADHD:** Quick motor movements, over reactive motor responses, always seems to want to do things quickly, may create situations where errors occur in work.
- **Impulsive (IM) NEG, ADHD:** Responds immediately without thinking of consequences.
- **Inappropriate Affect (IA) NEG, ED, ADHD, AUTISM:** Displays inappropriate emotion under normal circumstances.

- **Inappropriate Auditory (I/A) NEG, AUTISM:** Child may fear certain sounds, not hear loud noises, prefer certain sounds, e.g., vacuum cleaners, or on the other hand fear them.
- **Inappropriate Fears (IF) NEG, AUTISM:** Behavior may include attempting to escape common situations not causing fear in other same age children, usually followed by intense emotional reactions, or on the other hand not displaying fear in situations requiring vigilance.
- **Inappropriate Interpersonal (IP) NEG, AUTISM:** Unusual reaction to strangers, to physical contact, to personal space, not interested in adults or other children, become upset when contact is forced.
- **Inappropriate Play (IPL) NEG, AUTISM:** Unable to engage in parallel or cooperative play with peers and adults, unusual use of toys and objects.
- **Inappropriate Use Of Language – Receptive, Expressive, And Written (IL/ERW) NEG, AUTISM, ADHD:** Bizarre or inappropriate expressive language, echolalia, uses peculiar gestures to express self, uses expressions with no apparent meaning, peculiar, or bizarre written expression.
- **Inappropriate Use Of Senses (I/S) NEG, AUTISM:** Avoidance or excessive interest in smells, foods, textures, sounds, visual stimuli; approaches items using atypical sensoria.
- **Inappropriate Sexual Gestures (ISG) NEG, ED, MR:** Gestures intended to be provocative, disrespectful for the purpose of attention, intimidation, or to demand attention.
- **Inappropriate Visual (AV) NEG, AUTISM:** Avoids looking at people or certain objects, displays visual peculiarities such as gazing at objects at unusual angles.
- **Inattentive (IN) ATTENTION, MENTAL STATUS:** Unable to attend to communicator, ignores questions, little eye contact.
- **Incoherent (IT) STREAM OF THOUGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** Incoherent language, loose associations, neologisms, tangential thinking.
- **Ignores Others' Misbehavior (IOM) POS, MR:** Able to maintain work levels without responding to distractions.
- **Initiates Activity (IA) POS, MR:** Approaches caregivers with appropriate requests, questions which may lead to on task behaviors.
- **Initiates Motor (I/M) POS, AUTISM:** Initiates work or play activity with a peer or adult leading to on task behaviors.
- **Initiates Verbal (I/V) POS, AUTISM:** Initiates verbal responses which result in on task behavior.
- **Interrupts (IT) NEG, ADHD:** Breaks into others' activity without being sensitive to its disruptive effects.

- **Lacks Common Sense (LCS) JUDGEMENT, MENTAL STATUS:** Can be exploited, misled, unable to make decisions in his or her best interests, poor adaptive skills, poor judgement.
- **Leave (LV) NEG, ED:** Leaving an assigned area without permission.
- **Lethargic (LE) NEG, MENTAL STATUS:** Slow to respond to questions, activities.
- **Loud (LD) NEG, ADHD:** Intense verbal and demonstrative responses to situations which do not call for such intensity, causes disruption in others.
- **Maintain Concentration (MC) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Can't stay with a task for more than a few minutes, low level of vigilance, preoccupation with internal thoughts.
- **Memory/History (M/H) MEMORY, MENTAL STATUS:** Unable to remember personal history or facts accurately.
- **Messy Work (MW) NEG, ADHD:** Does not take care of or show pride in output, seems to just want to get the activity completed.
- **No Attention (NA) NEG, ADHD:** Unable to track a "signal," distracted by other events, may not display adequate attending skills, or may have the skills but choose not to use them.
- **Non Compliance (NC) NEG, ED, MR, ADHD, CRITICAL INCID:** Not following a direction or request.
- **Not Lucid (NLU) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Not alert, unspontaneous, not vigilant, "clouded" abilities.
- **Obsessive Compulsive (OC) STREAM OF THOUGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** Stereotypic behavior, ritualistic, phobic.
- **Off Task (OFF) NEG, MR, ON/OFF, CRITICAL INCID, AUTISM:** A general category used to indicate that the individual being observed is not engaging in the assigned behavior or activity.
- **On Task (ON) POS, ED, MR, ON/OFF, ADHD, CRITICAL INCID, AUTISM:** A general category used to indicate that the individual being observed is engaging in the assigned behavior or activity.
- **Oppositional (OP) NEG, ED, CRITICAL INCID:** A form of noncompliance characterized by behaviors actively meant to be counter controlling.
- **Over/Underweight (O/U) NEG, ED:** Appears undernourished, sickly, or obese.
- **Pain/Discomfort (P/D) NEG, ED:** Displays physical and/or mental duress.
- **Perseverate (PS) STREAM OF THOUGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** Excessive repetition of language or motor activity and associated language.
- **Physical Negative (PN) NEG, ED:** Any physical contact of a negative nature, hitting, poking, pushing, fighting, spitting, pulling hair, throwing, throwing objects at individuals.

- **Physical Positive (PP) POS, ED, MR:** Touching and interacting with others physically in a friendly or nurturing manner.
- ***Poor Posture (PP) NEG, ED:** Slumps, poor eye contact.
- **Positive Initiation (PI) POS, ED:** Approaches adults and peers in friendly and non-threatening manner, usually associated with the initiation of on task behaviors.
- **Pro Social (PS) POS, ED:** Engages in group activities, cooperates with teachers and peers.
- **Psychotic (PSY) INSIGHT, MENTAL STATUS:** Complete distortion of reality, auditory, visual hallucinations, impaired mental controls.
- ***Responds Slowly / Tiredness (RS) NEG, ED:** Taking too long to respond to an instruction not based on oppositional behavior but lethargy.
- **Ritualistic (RI) NEG, AUTISTIC:** Displays a set order of activity, which may not be interrupted, engages in superstitious-like behaviors before, during, or after activities; these behaviors, if interrupted, cause great distress in the child.
- **Self-Abuse (SA) JUDGEMENT, MENTAL STATUS:** Self-abusive statements, inflictions usually require monitoring by a caregiver.
- ***Self-Derogatory Verbal (SD) NEG, ED:** Derogatory self statements, statements of low self-worth, suicide.
- **Self Directions (SD) POS, ED, MR, CRITICAL INC:** Individual is able to engage in daily activities without close monitoring, completes on task behaviors without supervisions or with limited supervision, either self-reinforcing or working at a high level of delayed reinforcement.
- ***Self-Injurious Behavior (SIB) NEG, ED, MR:** Self-directed physical contact meant to cause tissue damage.
- **Self Stimulation (SS) NEG, ED, MR:** Repetitive self-directed behavior interferes with learning.
- **Serial Sevens (7S) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Can't subtract 7's from one hundred accurately.
- **Smears (SM) NEG, MR:** Engages in smearing feces on clothing, walls, commodes, may include "digging" or soiling if determined as acting out behavior.
- **Stereotypic (ST) NEG, MR, AUTISM:** A set of rigid activities displayed by the individual, may not be as intense as obsessive compulsive behavior but within the same class, usually anxiety based.
- **Tantrum (TT) NEG, MR:** Excessive body movements, verbal, and emotional displays when frustrated, usually increased intensity when goal not achieved, may also result from frustration when other forms of communication are not available.

- **Tears/Strips (T/S) NEG, MR:** Tearing, stripping, or other forms of removal of clothing inappropriately.
- **Threats V/P (TH) NEG, MR:** Verbal or physical gestures with intent to do harm to someone.
- **Three Step Command (3ST) ATTENTION, MENTAL STATUS:** Cannot follow a three step command.
- **Unfinished Work (UW) NEG, ADHD:** Fails to complete tasks before moving on to others, incomplete assignments, homework.
- **Unresponsive (UN) CONCENTRATION, MENTAL STATUS:** Reduced wakefulness, needs persistent prompting to respond, drowsy, frequent hesitations.
- **Unusual Intellect (UI) POS, AUTISM:** While generally not as able as students of the same age, may display a particular high level of skill such as artistic ability, memorization, though the skills are not usually functional.
- **Verbal Negative (VN) ED, MR, CRITICAL INCID:** Verbal threat to harm, swearing, teasing, inappropriate noises, sounds, gestures.
- **Verbal Positive (VP) ED, MR, CRITICAL INCID:** “Talking friendly” to peers and adults.
- **Well Oriented/Lucid (LU) NO SYMPTOMS, MENTAL STATUS:** No symptomatology.

* Denotes behaviors in the assessment of Emotional Disturbance which should serve as a “red flag” to the observer; they need only be coded once to deserve prompt attention and investigation.