



⇒ Crisis Management ⇐

is Not Positive Behavioral Support

What is a behavior crisis? A behavior crisis is any situation that must be immediately addressed for safety reasons. A behavior crisis cannot be ignored.

What is the purpose of crisis management? The purpose of crisis management is to get control of a dangerous situation.

What are some of the things I can do when there is a crisis? Protect the individual or others from harm. Briefly restrain the individual if necessary. Remove anyone who is in danger from the area.

Is every episode of challenging behavior a crisis?

No. Some behaviors may be annoying or distracting or unacceptable in some way. These behaviors can successfully be addressed by using Positive Behavior Support strategies, such as ignoring the behavior and teaching new skills.

🕯️ Try not to treat every situation as a crisis. You would not use a fire hose

Can crisis management be used too often? Yes. Crisis management works so well to get immediate results that parents, teachers and caregivers often treat every challenging behavior as if it were a crisis. They may then forget to pay attention to the person when there is no crisis.

How is crisis management different from Positive Behavior Support?

Crisis management is a temporary solution that is used to get control of a situation. Positive Behavior Support is a way to pay positive attention when there is no crisis and to teach the person new skills that will replace the challenging behavior. When Positive Behavior Support is used, there will be fewer crisis situations.

What should I do after the crisis is over? Use the strategies of Positive Behavior Support when there is no crisis. Take advantage of the quiet times between crises to teach skills that make problem behavior unnecessary. Create opportunities for the person to experience success and positive reinforcement every day.

Adapted from Carr, E. G., Levin, L., McConnachie, G., Carlson, J. I., Kemp, D. C., & Smith C. E.. Communication-based intervention for problem behavior: A user's guide for producing positive change.