Handout 11: Describing Challenging Behaviours

Describing a challenging behaviour needs to be just that - a description. Reports about behaviour need to be specific and accurate. They should describe exactly what occurs. General terms like non-compliant, aggressive or abusive could have quite different meanings to different people.

The behaviour should also be described in the context in which it occurs and is observed. For an effective behaviour management plan or strategy to be developed and implemented, the target behaviour must be adequately described - say what you say in plain English, when it occurred and under what circumstances.

Don't use labels that others may misinterpret.