# John Curran Behaviour Specialist



## A Practical Service Built Around YOU!

John Curran – Behaviour Specialist Services: Is a support service for Parents and Professionals experiencing direct/in-direct difficulty with an individual displaying any type of challenging behaviour. The service is running over 15 years and has been outsourced to HSE, TUSLA, HSC, Bluestack Foundation, Downsyndrome Ireland Branches across Ireland, Community groups, Schools, Residential units, Respite facilities, family Homes etc. working with clients of all ages (children/teenagers/adults) with varying abilities (Mainstream/Diagnosis).

It's a practical service and using the A.C.E Model we support/educate anyone involved with a client on the mechanics of behaviour and target displays within any environment of origin explaining each individual's role within a given scenario or target behaviour/display. Information gathered from an assessment piece helps to draw up an individualised step by step support intervention involving parents/guardians and/or professionals to set achievable targets to ensure positive progression. Each intervention is unique and individualised for both client's and adult/s involved considering each individuals learning history, mental and emotional state, and any underlying possibilities or recognised issues; this information helps us decide on the type of strategies/intervention and level of introduction within all environment/s. Target behaviours frequently involve the decrease of excessive inappropriate (negative) displays which we try to replace with an alternative positive displays through adapted strategies and decreased valuation (functioning) of the target behaviour. We in turn use our interventions to increase value (reinforcement) of positive displays to promote an increase in these behaviours over the duration of the intervention. During these interventions we target any deficit social displays or life skills which may be contributing to difficulty in an attempt to promote positive interactions within family life, society and dominant environments where reputations/repertoires are considered negative. As challenging displays are more evident within family homes we notice a huge contributing impact on the mental health for everyone involved so we consistently try to positively Impact on this area as we move through interventions building confidence, self-worth and positive mind-sets for adults and individuals involved as we transition through changes; the consumption of challenges within a family home can

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promote isolation and negative emotions which in turn impact on their ability to motivate themselves and others to positively impact on these challenges.

The service strives to impact on as many areas as possible to ensure a holistic change on as many areas as possible in order to promote positive sustainable change.

The services offers an intense (**weekly**) support for parents/professionals within any environment the target behaviours take place (Home, school, residential, respite etc.) ensuring a generalised approach within all environments. This approach helps to reduce the difficulties affectively increasing the possibilities of sustained results during/post intervention.

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