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# Working effectively within support networks

10 tips for behaviour support practitioners



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Working together on positive  
behaviour support (PBS)

# Working effectively within support networks

## 10 tips for behaviour support practitioners

When supporting a person with a behaviour support plan, engaging people in their support network – or, where present, a Circle of Support – when planning and implementing their behaviour support plan can be a powerful way to create lasting, positive change.

This person-centred approach to engagement respects [the individual and their rights](#) and increases the chance of long-term success.

## 10 tips for engaging support networks

### 1. The person is at the centre

Support plans should be developed with the person, not just for them. Their voice matters.

### 2. Building trust and relationships

The person will respond better to behaviour support strategies if they feel safe and understood by their support network.

### 3. Choosing the right people for support

The right people in the support network (or Circle of Support) need to understand and follow the behaviour support plan to create consistency.

#### **4. Clear goals and support strategies**

The support network (or Circle of Support) can reinforce positive behaviours and help track progress toward behaviour goals.

#### **5. Open, honest and positive communication**

Ensuring the support network (or Circle of Support) uses consistent language and positive reinforcement will encourage progress.

#### **6. Regular check-ins and flexibility**

People in the support network (or Circle of Support) can provide feedback on what's working and suggest adjustments to improve the plan.

#### **7. Encouraging independence and choice**

This level of engagement provides the person with stronger opportunities to be involved in creating and adjusting their behaviour support plan, empowering them to take control of their progress.

#### **8. Respecting privacy and confidentiality**

Only those who need to know should have access to the behaviour support strategies, ensuring dignity and respect.

## **9. Using positive, proactive approaches**

The support network (or Circle of Support) can help model and reinforce positive behaviour strategies in daily life.

## **10. Long-term commitment to growth**

The support network (or Circle of Support) provides consistent, long-term support, ensuring that positive behaviour strategies continue over time.



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