



# Critical thinking and Positive Behaviour Support

Critical thinking is an essential skill for PBS practitioners and others involved in Positive Behaviour Support. Critical thinking allows us to reflect, consider evidence, make decisions and problem-solve. Critical thinking helps us to collate and analyse available information and evidence to form a judgement/conclusion.

As an example, consider the role of critical thinking in initial PBS planning:

- The practitioner first needs to review available information and learn about the person to decide upon their best approach.

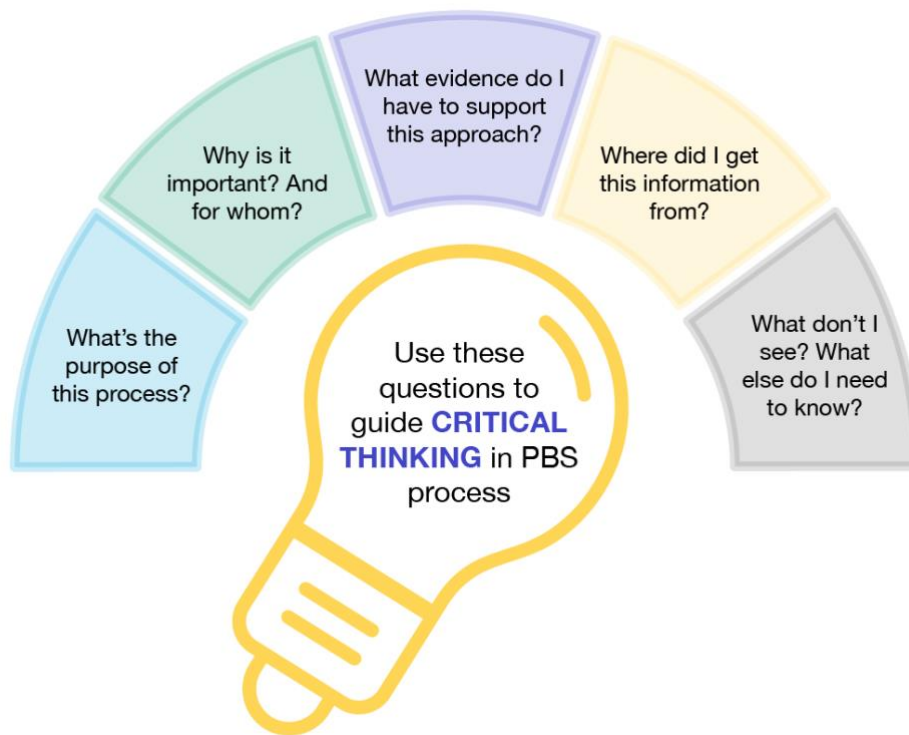


- They will consider things such as the person’s values and preferences, current challenges (for the person and others), their current support network, any existing assessments, living situation, historical and medical records, and available funding.

Without critical thinking, practitioners risk placing too much weight on certain assessments/assessment types, and being driven by subjective and sometime misinformed perspectives – and even their own ‘clinical judgement’.

It might be helpful to think about PBS process as the ‘stepping stones’ and ‘building blocks’ of PBS practice, and critical thinking as the path guiding the way.

As a start to building a critical approach to PBS, practitioners and other stakeholders could use the following questions as prompts to consider each process



Critical thinkers will ask good questions, gather relevant information and think through solutions and conclusions – and they are curious and creative!