

RACGP Webinar

Understanding children's behaviour as communication

Children's behaviour and emotions are often a focus of parental concern. Parents perceive that their child is not behaving in the way they expect or would want them to and the behaviour is viewed as the source of the problem. Adding to this, parents' attempts to address the perceived problem behaviour can commonly lead to struggle and conflict in the parent-child relationship. It can also lead to a child being labelled, e.g., as 'naughty' or 'disruptive'. How might GPs have conversations with parents about children's behaviour that support explorations of what might be happening for the child and the broader circumstances the family is facing?

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Explain the link between children's behaviour and underlying emotional and relational issues; and
- Engage in conversations with parents about children's behaviour to explore underlying issues.

Case study

Helen has come to see the GP about her nine-year-old son, Zac, who is having behavioural difficulties at home and at school. She has come alone. Helen usually sees Dr Fielding in this clinic, but she has gone on maternity leave. This is Helen's first appointment with the new doctor.

Please watch the video (5 mins) of this fictional consultation and consider what are the key approaches that the GP draws on to connect with Helen and ensure her experience is acknowledged.

<https://vimeo.com/507809895/4f01057625>

Delivery partners:



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