Activity Sheet 1.5
Identifying the Function of Behaviors

ANTECEDENT
Ryan is given a turkey sandwich for lunch.

BEHAVIOR
Ryan falls to the floor and screams that he wants pop tarts for lunch.

CONSEQUENCE
His mother takes the sandwich away and starts toasting some pop tarts.

Possible Function
Escape/Avoidance
Attention-seeking
To Get What He Wants
“Automatically rewarding”

ANTECEDENT
Ryan gets in the car to drive to school.

BEHAVIOR
Ryan starts to flap his hands.

CONSEQUENCE
His mother turns the radio on to his favorite station.

Possible Function
Escape/Avoidance
Attention-seeking
To Get What He Wants
“Automatically rewarding”

ANTECEDENT
Ryan’s mother tells him to clean his room.

BEHAVIOR
Ryan cries and whines to his mom that he doesn’t want to clean his room now.

CONSEQUENCE
His mother gives him a hug, tells him not to cry, and talks to him about the importance of keeping his room clean.

Possible Function
Escape/Avoidance
Attention-seeking
To Get What He Wants
“Automatically rewarding”

ANTECEDENT
Ryan’s mother tells him to do his homework.

BEHAVIOR
Ryan runs away into his bedroom.

CONSEQUENCE
His mother lets him stay up there because he is being quiet.

Possible Function
Escape/Avoidance
Attention-seeking
To Get What He Wants
“Automatically rewarding”