**Why Behaviour Happens**

* **Curiosity** – children are naturally curious, this is how they learn, encourage children to explore and experiment. Support with the boundaries
* **Imagination** – children will imitate so watch you behaviour
* **Sense of self** – children don’t always see things from other peoples point of view so could be unkind or unfair without meaning to, avoid telling the child off, consider how this would make you feel.
* **Independence** – support children to make their own decisions and allow them to do things for themselves
* **Attention seeking** – make sure you praise the positives and this will reinforce their behaviour, if the child only gets attention when they only display negative behaviour and when they are good they are ignored then they will continue to carry out the negative and the good behaviour will become less – reinforce good behaviour
* **Anger and frustration** – this could be reflected in anti-social ways such as tearing, throwing or physical violence against others. Young children are not able to control strong emotions
* **Boredom** – if the environment doesn’t meet their learning needs children will make up their own play and this can come across as very challenging behaviour
* **Testing** how fare they can go - this is part of a child growing up – be consistent and know your limits – call on help from another colleague and remove yourself not the child from the situation
* **Unrealistic demands** – some children are not physically or emotionally capable of the behaviour expected of them. treat children as individuals
* **Unaware** of and not use to boundaries of behaviour – home life may be very different from nursery life. Talk to parents share experiences
* Child not use to doing as they are told, again don’t send mixed messages – work with parents
* **Tiredness or illness** can change the child’s behaviour – check in with parents and colleagues
* **Anxiety or fear** – change in behaviour is usually a symptom of emotional upset – check out with parents how the child has been at home or if they have had a good weekend/evening/morning