



Why Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is harmful and signposting to support further research

(Helen Edgar, Autistic Realms, updated Jan 2024).

“Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is being widely promoted as an approach to be used on people who are disabled and/or neurodivergent and display behaviours others do not wish to see. Often the disabled person has significant sensory, communication, trauma or medical needs and rights that are not met. Despite a broad buy-in, PBS is not actually supported by Disabled People’s Organisations and allies. This is because PBS does not meet human rights, has a poor quality evidence base and its risks and harms are not understood.”

([AMASE, \(2021\), On ‘Positive behaviour support.’](#))

“Both rewards and punishments are ways of manipulating behaviour that destroy the potential for real learning. Instead, he advocates providing an engaging curriculum and a caring atmosphere “so kids can act on their natural desire to find out.”

([Kohn, A. \(1999\). Punished by Rewards: The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A’S, Praise, and Other Bribes.](#))

AMASE, (2021), [PBS Supplementary information PDF](#)

Ausome Training, [Problems with PBS](#)

ICARS Report, (2023, April 18). [International Coalition Against Restraint and Seclusion](#).

Milton, Damian (2020) [Applied Behavioural Analysis and the autistic community: time to listen](#). In: [Are We Asking the Right Questions About Behaviour? Studio3 Web Conference, 21 Oct 2020 online. \(PDF\)](#)

Mudridge, J & Dr. Farahar, C. with Aucademy (2021) YouTube. [Navigating "autism interventions" & therapies: JayJay educates Aucademy](#)

Gray-Hammond, D.,(2022, May 11). [Double empathy, solipsism, and neurotypicality - Emergent Divergence](#). *Emergent Divergence*.

Murray, D. (2020, March 2). [Reservations about Positive Behavior Support, or PBS](#). *NeuroClastic*.

Murray, F. (2023, December 3). [Scottish Greens vote to ban 'Behaviour Modification' practices for disabled people](#). *Bylines Scotland*.

NeuroClastic [What is ABA, What are the alternatives](#)

[Stop ABA, Support Autistics Home Blog](#)

Therapist Neurodiversity Collective. (2023, July 13). [Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) | Therapist Neurodiversity Collective](#).

Therapist Neurodiversity Collective. (2023a, July 5). [Positive Behavior Support \(PBS\)](#).

Hosted on website of Kieran Rose, Autistic Advocate, (2023, August 8). [An open letter to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists \(RCSLT\)](#)