1. Identify and define challenging behavior

- Observable and measureable
  - Inappropriate?
  - Distracting?
  - Unexpected?
  - Dangerous?
  - Disruptive?

- What does it look like and sound like?
- Be objective, not subjective

2. Collect information about when the behavior occurs

- Observations
- Data collection
- Interviews with child, parents, staff, others
- Analyze patterns of behavior

3. Identify what is going on before and after the behavior occurs

- Identify any slow or fast triggers

4. Learn about the student and what is going on in his/her life

- Mental
- Physical
- Skills
- Abilities
- Preferences
- Interests
- Quality of relationships, friendships, etc.

5. Come to a "best guess" about the purpose of the behavior and develop a statement that explains...

“When this is going on in this location this happens, the student does this and we think it means this.”