

Behavioural Characteristics

When people have a diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome it means that they are more likely to engage in certain behaviours than people without this syndrome. This is known as a ‘behavioural phenotype.’ However, this does not mean that everyone with Prader-Willi syndrome will show this behaviour and it is extremely important to remember that everyone with Prader-Willi syndrome is an individual.

Understanding which behaviours are more likely to occur in Prader-Willi syndrome means that parents, carers and professionals are in a stronger position to support a person because they can learn about why this behaviour is happening and develop interventions that are specific to people with this syndrome.

The following sections describe a range of behaviours including;

- [adaptive \(living\) behaviour](#)
- [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- [eating behaviour](#)
- [mood and interest](#)
- [overactivity and impulsivity](#)
- [repetitive behaviour](#)
- [sleep](#)
- [skin picking](#)
- [social behaviour](#)
- [temper outbursts](#)
- [behavioural difficulties](#)

Descriptions of each of these behaviours can be found in the corresponding subsection on this website or you can visit the [Key Topics](#) pages to get a general overview of each of these areas.