

### PART - The Environmental Model

Behaviour can be seen as a product of circumstances under which it occurs. Environmental conditions that may predispose individuals to assaultive behaviour include:

- physical conditions (light, heat/cold, crowding, and noise);
- staff performance problems (inconsistency and lack of structure);
- scheduling problems (staff and activity schedules).

These are circumstances and conditions over which the staff have some control.

#### Therapeutic Approaches to the Environment

- Control such variables as heat, noise and crowding.
- Allow for and provide a balance between solitude and socialization.
- Respect individual's need for privacy and facilitate this as much as possible.
- Allow individuals to have some of their possessions in order to instil a feeling of ownership.
- Facilitate individual's physical comfort.
- Provide opportunity for normal meaningful activities.
- Maintain a stable routine with realistic changes when necessary.
- Give individual's time and opportunity to complete activities of daily living. Allow for flexibility (e.g., in health care: sleeping in, alternative bath times, etc.)
- Be aware of and facilitate individual's diverse cultural values.
- Control such environmental influences as disturbing television programs.
- Provide colourful rewarding environment.

Think of an environmental condition that might provoke an assaultive incident.

Can you make any recommendations for improvement?

source: *Professional Assault Response Training (PART) program*®

#### Safety Talk Discussion

**Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!**