

NM PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL DEFINING CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

Challenging behavior is defined as behavior that includes:

- Physical aggression such as hitting, kicking, punching, spitting, throwing objects forcefully, pinching, pushing, and biting
- Climbing things in a classroom that are not permitted
- Destroying property, destroying what another child is working on regardless of the other child's response
- Taking toys away from other children forcefully
- Running that poses a safety risk for the child or others or elopement from the classroom
- Tantrum behaviors that might include behaviors such as kicking, screaming, pushing an object or person, stomping feet, or head banging
- Verbal aggression including yelling, threats, screaming, at another person, calling bad names and saying bad words
- Ordering an adult to do something (e.g. "leave me alone")
- Persistent or prolonged crying that is loud or disruptive or ongoing crying that interferes with the child's engagement in activities
- Inappropriate use of materials (e.g. jumping off chairs, slamming materials, throwing objects)
- Statements that are noncompliant (e.g. "I am not going to do it") or clear and explicit verbal or physical refusal to follow directions
- Inappropriate touching, stripping and other behaviors that are hurtful, disruptive, or dangerous to self or others

References:

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

Hemmeter, M., Fox, L. & Snyder, P. (2014). *Teaching pyramid observation tool for preschool classrooms manual, research edition*. Baltimore, Maryland: Brookes Publishing Co.