

Responding To Challenging Behaviors

- When responding to challenging behavior, it is important that teachers do not engage in actions that escalate or maintain the behavior such as giving too much response to inappropriate attention-seeking behaviors.
- Teachers should employ developmentally appropriate strategies such as redirection, encouraging the child to take a break and planned ignoring. The teacher should respond to the child by stating what the child should do with reference to visual supports such as posted classroom rules.
- Logical consequences should be stated by the teacher with the intention of redirecting the child to use another behavior. An example could be, "If you are going to throw the dress-up clothes, then we will have to put them away. Put the costumes away in the bin when you are finished."
- Teachers can also have an established problem-solving process, with environmental supports, in place in the classroom with ongoing support as children work through the process.

It is important to develop individualized interventions to persistent and profound challenging behaviors through a team approach.

Teacher's role includes:

- Collecting data
- Participating in the development of a behavior-support plan
- Implementing the strategies in the classroom
- Assisting in monitoring the implementation and outcomes of the plan

The teacher should provide positive attention to the child once the challenging behavior ends and the child begins to behave appropriately.

Positive attention could include:

- Playing with the child
- Talking with the child
- Affection
- Using descriptive comments and encouragement

An example of positive descriptive comments for appropriate behavior is, "You are doing a great job of waiting patiently for your turn."

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.