

# Overview of Considerations for Addressing Challenging Behaviors

It is important to consider the following aspects when addressing challenging behaviors:

- function of the behavior,
- prevention strategies,
- ways to respond to behavior, and
- skills to develop in a support plan that will be effective for the child.

## **1. "Why the child might be doing this?" (function)**

Think about what the child is communicating through his/her challenging behavior. Once the teacher is able to identify what the child is communicating through challenging behavior (i.e., the function), he/she can proceed with developing a plan of support.

## **2. "What can I do to prevent the problem behavior?" (prevention)**

Provide strategies that will help the child participate in the routine/activity without having challenging behavior.

## **3. "What can I do if the problem behavior occurs?" (response)**

Know how you will respond in a way that does not maintain the problem behavior. In considering your response, remember to avoid accidentally reinforcing the behavior while prioritizing the safety of the children.

## **4. "What new skills should I teach?" (replacement behavior and support plan)**

Teach skills to replace the challenging behavior. Provide guided practice, consistent reinforcement, and re-teaching as needed.