



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.

