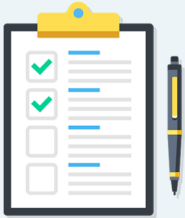


# 5 Key Principles for Preventing Challenging Behavior



## Assume ALL Children Can Learn

Begin with the assumption that all children can learn and be successful in all learning environments, regardless of disposition, ability level, and other factors. Both the rate and amount of progress will vary from child to child, but consistent support that's patiently applied is a reliable path towards positive social-emotional development.



## Make Sure Expectations Are Clearly Stated, Appropriate, and Visible

Your behavioral expectations may not align completely with the expectations placed on a child at home, the playground, and other familiar places. That's why it's important to be as clear as possible when explaining and reinforcing what's expected of a child.



## Use Prompt Hierarchies

The goal of the PBIS framework is prevention, not punishment. It's best to begin with the least intrusive level of prompt (a gesture or motion), and then if the child does not respond, progress through prompts of slightly increasing intensity.



## Focus Concern on the Emotion or Behavior, Not the Child

It's helpful to remember that although a child's behavior and emotions can be challenging or frustrating, the *child* is not "difficult" or "bad". The job of every adult in that child's life is to help them make better, more appropriate choices.







## Always Think of a Behavior's Function

Think of behavior as an attempt at communication. Every time a young child engages in a concerning behavior, they're trying to tell you something. However, the same behavior might serve different functions for different children. Once the function has been identified, it's up to the teacher to teach and reinforce more appropriate ways for the child to communicate what they need.

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