

10 Positive Ways

to Assess and Support Students with Behavior Challenges



1. Focus on connection and relationships:

Make it a habit to actively listen and explicitly convey caring.



2. If possible, get the student's perspective:

Often, students engage in behaviors that look strange to others but serve an important purpose.



3. Prioritize prevention:

Consider the potential difficulties students may have and—one by one—strategize ways to sidestep those difficulties.



4. Talk to the student's family:

Parents offer expert advice that will often help teachers see students in a completely different light.



5. Use the school community:

Enlist the support of collaborative partners, including adult members of the school team and the student's peers.



6. Assess and adapt the environment:

Students with sensory issues may require adaptations to classroom lighting, seating, noise levels, materials, and visual inputs.



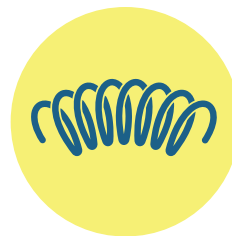
7. Teach new skills:

For long-term success, teach new communication, social, and self-help skills to help students achieve goals and engage in positive behavior.



8. Evaluate curriculum and instruction:

Investigate whether the curriculum is dull, not age-appropriate, or incompatible with the student's challenges and needs.



9. Be willing to adapt:




Create adaptations and work toward solutions instead of focusing on problems.



10. Do something else:

Continuously approach behavior issues from different angles and think outside the box to find solutions.

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