

Shifting Attitudes Towards Childhood

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Discussion

What behaviors do you find most challenging to your sense of calm?



Developmentally Normative Behaviors

Not Sharing Birth - 4.5 yrs

Biting 6m - 2.5 yrs

Throwing 1 - 2.5 yrs

Screaming 1.5 - 3.5 yrs

Saying 'no' 2 - 4 yrs

Swatting 2 - 3.5 yrs

Pushing 2 - 3.5 yrs

Tattling 3 - 5 yrs

Unfriending / Uninviting 3 - 5 yrs



Common beliefs about behavior

Children should
be respectful

Children shouldn't
be allowed to say
'no' to an adult

Children must be
told what to do

We can control
behavior

Children should
know how to
behave
appropriately

I shouldn't have
to tell them so
many times

Children must be
obedient

Attention spoils
a child

Social Emotional Development



Self

Who am I,
How do I feel,
What do I want,
What do I need



Others

Who are my friends,
How do I impact others,
What do they feel,
How can I help



Community

What do we need,
How can we all get
what we need,
How does our
success influence one
another



Environment



Adult



Child

The Role of the Environment:

- Sets the tone
- Welcomes the child
- Supports Play



Environment

Potential Triggers:

Physical Space

Routines

Curriculum

Transitions

Environment

Solutions:

Easy access to a variety of materials

Uninterrupted free choice

Reduce Transitions

Eliminate waiting

Fewer large group activities/transitions

More time outdoors





Adult

Potential Triggers

Unrealistic expectations

Doing too much for the child

Power challenge

Tone/body language

Inconsistent Responses

Lack of leadership

Slow Down

- Clearly state directive
- Wait without repeating
- Allow for Tarry Time
- Allow for feelings while guiding cooperation

Teaching New Behaviors

- Simple, clear instructions while modeling
- Small, manageable pieces of larger tasks
- Re-do together

Offer valid choices

- Only when a choice actually exist
- Provide opportunities for “no”
- Allow the child appropriate personal power

Redirection

- Consider the child’s needs/interests
- Offer specific direction
- Redirect towards a new activity/behavior

Interactions that Build Trust

Guidance without Judgement

Tone, body language and inflection,
volume

Clear and Consistent

"I don't want you to..."

No shame or emotional language



Conflict Resolution

Preschool Age

- Acknowledge feelings and gather information
- Restate the problem according to what the children have told you
- Ask the children for ideas and solutions
- Restate the choices and ask for a solution
- Summarize the plan and watch for follow through

Twos

- State the behavior
- Explain why the behavior is inappropriate
- Redirect behavior to appropriate place



Child

Potential Triggers:

Physical need – hungry, tired, sick

Stress

Need for autonomy/control

Fear

Lack of language skills

Lack of understanding of emotions

Not enough personal space



Child

Solutions:

Meet physical and emotional needs

Acknowledge reality and perceptions

Be kind

Allow for autonomy and space

Provide grace





Child

Address teething needs
Provide ways for children to express
their feelings/frustrations
Help children calm themselves
Help children express themselves
Provide lots of individual attention

Talking to Parents

- Keep parents updated and informed
- Provide information and resources
- Protect confidentiality
- Assure parents
- Avoid blame

Three Meetings:

- Positive experiences/concerning behavior/teacher plan
- Follow-up/gather parent's experience/share resource
- Follow-up/establish action plan/refer



Action Plan

- What will you start in your practice?
- What will you Keep?
- What will you stop?

Questions?