

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

Interactions that Build Trust

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

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?