



Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 5: Responding to Behavior Problems and Resolving Conflicts

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 5

Modeling

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Host: We have discussed ways teachers can respond to inappropriate behavior. However, the most effective strategy is to guide children toward positive behavior before they break rules. One of the best ways to do this is by providing them with a model of how we want them to behave. If you want children to be kind, you model kindness. If you want them to express their feelings, you model this for them. Children will benefit from your modeling in any area of learning and development. Let's visit some pre-school classrooms to see how teachers use different activities to model turn-taking and other positive behaviors.

Narrator: Preschool teacher Marie Langston guides children's behavior by modeling turn taking during a cooking activity. Ok, now what should we do?

Children: Stir!

Teacher: Well I'm going to take ten stirs then everyone else will get ten stirs, count!

Children: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

Teacher: Okay, Henanimo, it's your turn.

Children count to ten.

Child: I counted fast!

Teacher: I know. You want a turn Ben?

Narrator: This math game gives preschool teacher Brenda Heranimus an opportunity to model turn taking.

Teacher: I'm going again! Alright, I got six again. 7-8. I added those two together. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8. I'm behind you.

Narrator: The teacher is also modeling smiling, warmth, enthusiasm, humor, and mathematical thinking.

Child: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10.

Teacher: You get to the mailbox. Peter mailed a letter! My turn. Let's see. How am I going to figure out how many dots are on these two? How am I going to add these two? What should I do?

Child: Count them.

Teacher: Count them all?

Child: Yeah.

Teacher: Alright, let's see. Well how many are on there.

Child: six.

Teacher: Okay, I'll start with that. 6-7-8-9-10-11. Here I come! 1-2-3-4...

Host: Caregivers teach by example—this is the most powerful way you influence children's development. Now we want you to take some time to think about modeling in your classroom. What are some skills that you are working on right now with the children in your class? How could you use modeling as a strategy for teaching children those skills?

Activity 5D: Modeling

Voiceover: What are some specific social skills you are working on right now with the children in your class? How could you use modeling as a strategy for teaching children those skills?

Did you consider ...?

Voiceover: Some skills you might teach through modeling are:

- Teach kindness by always demonstrating gentle, nurturing behaviors and avoiding harsh or angry responses.
- Teach taking turns by playing games with children and modeling how to wait until it is your turn to play.
- Teach politeness by modeling the use of phrases like, "thank you," "excuse me," or "I'm sorry."
- Teach conflict resolution by modeling this in your own disagreements with colleagues, parents, and children.

Host: This concludes the information in segment five. Let's take a moment to review our objectives. First, we explored how to apply the strategy redirection in addressing challenging behavior in the classroom. Next, we described how to use simple, positive reminders. We described how to use a firm reminder with choice-giving. We explained the steps of conflict resolution. Finally, we discussed the importance of modeling as a tool for managing classroom behavior. You can apply these ideas to your own classroom by completing the ideas into practice for this segment. Or you can return to the main menu and move to another segment.