

Understanding Challenging Behavior in Young Children

Ideas for using the video within your program

Before watching the video:

Ask staff to think about one or two children about whose behavior they have questions or concerns. Ask staff to share some of their thoughts, including specific descriptions of the behavior they find concerning. Write down responses using chart paper.

Watch the video together. Have staff discuss:

1. What are some of the factors that influence children's behavior covered in the video? Are there others that weren't covered? Which factors have you seen at play in our program?
2. How do you tune in to each child to meet their individual needs? What has worked for you? Are there other strategies you would like to try?
3. Reflect on the section in the video when a toddler threw a hard plastic ball and the teacher intervened. What factors might have been influencing the child's behavior in that moment? What strategies did the teacher use to address the behavior?
4. In what ways do we recognize that children have a continuum of needs? How do we currently ensure that families and children feel supported and accepted, regardless of their development or need?
5. Think about the last time a child's behavior frustrated or concerned you. What factors may have influenced the behavior? What strategies did you try to address the behavior? If it were to happen today, what might you try?
6. Are there children in your classroom who appear to need more support than what you can provide in your classroom? If so, who else might be part of the team?

NAEYC Program Standards:

1 - Relationships

4 – Assessment of Child Progress

7 - Families



Follow-up:

Consider facilitating the formation of teams among staff to share strategies and provide mutual support. Encourage staff to each explore one of the *Additional Resources* section of the website and share what they learned with their team members. Provide staff with time to meet.