When Dana is asked to engage in activities that he finds difficult or demanding (sit for circle, play with undesired materials, stay with small group), he escapes demands by screaming, dropping to the floor, and hitting adults when being redirected. When this behavior occurs, adults will decrease their demands or leave him alone.

When asked to transition from one activity to another (e.g., playground to indoors, classroom to car, store to car), Dana attempts to escape the transition by dropping to the ground, screaming, crying, and hitting adults when they try to redirect him. Sometimes when this behavior occurs, adults allow Dana to have more time in the activity or have to resort to picking him up and carrying him.

Dana has problem behavior, screaming and crying, to escape demands in play. When adults or peers join his play and attempt to take a turn or initiate a new activity, Dana will have problem behavior. When this occurs, the adult or peer will leave Dana alone or play “his way.”