

## Talking with Families about Problem Behavior: Do's and Don'ts

| <b>Do</b>   | <b>Don't</b>  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin the discussion by expressing concern about the child.</li> <li>2. Let the parent know that your goal is to help the child.</li> <li>3. Ask the parent if he or she has experienced similar situations and are concerned.</li> <li>4. Tell the parent that you want to work with the family to help the child develop appropriate behavior and social skills.</li> <li>5. Tell the parent about what is happening in the classroom but only after the parent understands that you are concerned about the child, not blaming the family.</li> <li>6. Offer to work with the parent in the development of a behavior support plan that can be used at home and in the classroom.</li> <li>7. Emphasize that your focus will be to help the child develop the skills needed to be successful in the classroom. The child needs instruction and support.</li> <li>8. Stress that if you can work together, you are more likely to be successful in helping the child learn new skills.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin the discussion by indicating that the child's behavior is not tolerable.</li> <li>2. Indicate that the child must be punished or "dealt with" by the parent.</li> <li>3. Ask the parent if something has happened at home to cause the behavior.</li> <li>4. Indicate that the parent should take action to resolve the problem at home.</li> <li>5. Initiate the conversation by listing the child's challenging behavior. Discussions about challenging behavior should be framed as "the child is having a difficult time" rather than losing control.</li> <li>6. Leave it up to the parent to manage problems at home; develop a plan without inviting family participation.</li> <li>7. Let the parent believe that the child needs more discipline.</li> <li>8. Minimize the importance of helping the family understand and implement positive behavior support.</li> </ol> |