

Tips for Responding to Challenging Behavior

ACT AGAINST VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

<http://www.ActAgainstViolence.org>

DISCIPLINE- HANDOUT 2



The following tips are recommended by child development professionals to support young children when they present challenging behavior in the classroom.

1. Approach the child calmly, with nonthreatening body language.
2. Use a calm voice and possibly a gentle touch (on the shoulder).
3. Make eye contact if possible and try to move to the level of the child or children.
4. If the problem is between children, place yourself between them.
5. If the problem involves an object, take the object from whoever has possession of it until the problem is solved.
6. Acknowledge the child's feelings.
7. Listen to what the child has to say about the reason for the behavior.
8. Restate the problem.
9. Have the child or children suggest solutions and, if possible, agree on a solution. (This teaches problem-solving skills. Remember that very young children won't be able to do that yet.)
10. Ask the child or children if they need help finding a solution. If so, offer a solution.
11. Observe the solution being tried.
12. When possible, return to the child or children and praise them for solving the problem and changing their behavior.
13. After you have intervened, re-think the intervention at some point: what you did well, and what you might improve if a similar situation occurs again in the classroom.

Source: High/Scope 1998 program video: "Supporting Children in Resolving Conflicts."