

What you will learn in this module

How to use positive behavior support to guide children's behavior

Positive support helps children behave appropriately. One way to support them is to give one-to-one attention. Another is to adjust teaching methods to their level of development. Some children need a teacher's help to practice a specific behavior. Others need changes in the environment to meet their needs.

How to set rules and limits for children with disabilities

Children need clear rules and limits to control their behavior. They learn how to set goals and then change their behavior to meet them. This allows them to control their behavior. They learn to pay attention and learn new things.

How to address the needs of children who behave aggressively

Teachers need to know how to calm down children who are behaving aggressively. With the right support a child can make up for any harm caused by his behavior. And develop a plan for managing his feelings more appropriately.

You already know a lot about guiding children's behavior

You know how important it is to give children positive behavior support.

Children do the best they can. Young children like to please adults. You can help them control their behavior by building relationships with them. And by making sure that their activities are appropriate for their level of development. Usually this is all they need to cooperate and be part of a group.

Some children with disabilities need extra support to manage their behavior. For example, a child might need to practice a skill like taking turns. Or receive one-to-one instruction until she is able use the skill on her own. It's best to give this additional support in the classroom. This helps children understand how the skill they're learning fits into everyday activities and routines.

You know how to set rules and limits.

All children need limits to feel safe. Limits teach them that boundaries are important in relationships. They learn what is expected of them in different environments. This helps them respect the rights and wishes of others.

Some teachers find it hard to set limits for children with disabilities. Maybe they feel guilty for denying a child with a disability something he wants. Or maybe a child with a developmental disability such as mental retardation or autism has a hard time understanding what a limit is for. Teachers need to learn to set limits, despite these concerns. This helps children learn to behave appropriately.

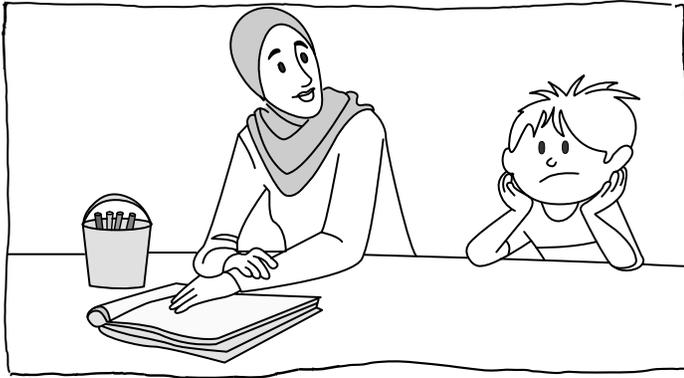
You know that children sometimes behave aggressively, even though you give them positive support and set rules and limits.

Children's aggressive behavior should be handled in a calm, yet firm manner. Handled appropriately, an aggressive incident teaches a child better ways to show his anger or frustration. With support, the child learns how to make amends to the people he's hurt or angered.

Children with disabilities deal with more than their share of frustration. It's often difficult for them to do things that others take for granted. For example, having enough fine-motor control to use a crayon. Or having enough trunk strength to sit up straight at circle. Some children can't control their impulses, so it's hard for them to learn to manage their feelings. For example, they may react too strongly when others ignore them or don't give them a turn. Some children have language delays, so it's hard for them to communicate clearly. Children with disabilities may need extra support to help curb aggressive behavior.

Petey Makes Amends

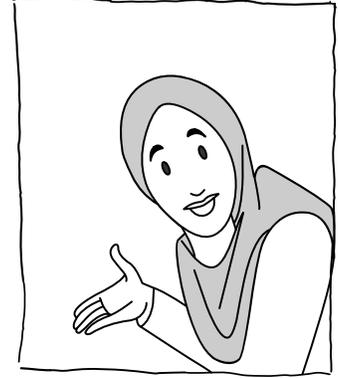
As you read this story notice how Ms. Hassan helps Petey make amends after being aggressive toward a peer.



Ms. Hassan: "Let's talk about what happened with Kamalini on the playground."



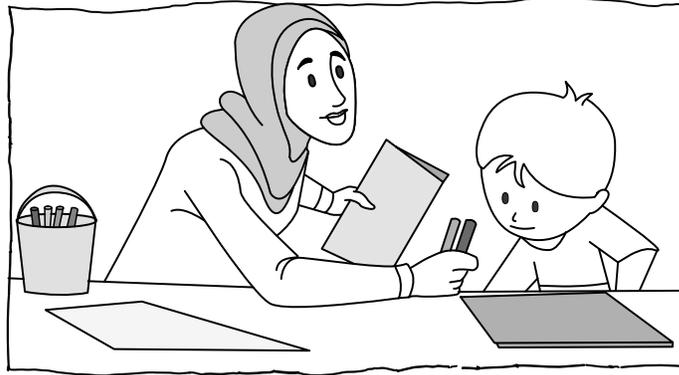
Petey: "I was mad so I hit her."



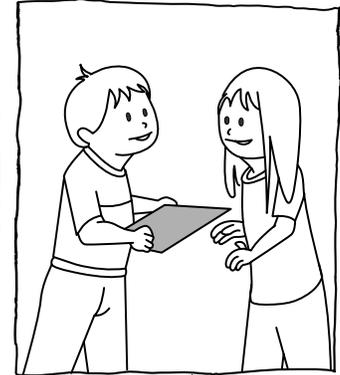
Ms. Hassan: "It's okay to be mad. But you can't hit someone. Hitting hurts."



Petey: "I'm sorry. I didn't want to hurt her. I just wanted a turn."



Ms. Hassan: "Let's make something for Kamalini to tell her you're sorry."



Petey: "I'm sorry, Kamalini. I didn't mean to hurt you."