

Problem Solving Strategies Checklist

Communicate with Parents

- Build rapport with families and parents
- Allow time to gather information
- Learn about daily routines and habits
- Ask about emotional triggers
- Communicate openly and honestly about success and challenges

Collaborate with Service Providers

- Get a clear picture of child's level of functioning
- Set expectations according to child's level of development and functioning
- With family/parent permission, talk to child's service providers (ex. Speech, OT, PT, Behavioral Therapist)
- Request information on the child's needs and aim to create continuity of care

Create an Environment That Promotes Success

- Structured and consistent routines
- Visual Schedules
- Position yourself at the child's level
- Clear expectations and commands

Get to Know The Child

- Redirect challenging behavior before it starts by identifying and preventing emotional triggers
- Praise Children Often
- Focus on what to do instead of what not to do
- Be specific: "Thank you for using gentle hands."

Stop and Think: Be a Good Role Model

- Stay calm
- Take time to stop and think before responding
- Use feeling words to express how you feel
- Respond in a thoughtful way that is sensitive to the child's needs

Use Encouraging Words

- Encourage children to ask for what they need
- Provide opportunities to express how they feel
- Provide pictures or stories to promote expression



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Use Scripted Social Stories

- Help children understand a social situation by describing the situation
- Show pictures of children in and responding appropriately to a social situation

Promote Emotional Regulation

- Be clear about rules and limits
- Give clear and appropriate consequences
- Create a calming space

Specific Resources:

Click on the link for tips about routine and schedules:

- <http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources/tools.htm>

Click on Link for Tips for Giving Clear Commands:

- http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources/teaching_tools/toc/folder1/1b_communication.pdf
- <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/challenging-behavior/tips-tools-challenging-behaviors.html>
- http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources/teaching_tools/ttyc_toc.htm
- <http://penfieldbuildingblocks.org/category/home-and-family/behavior-and-discipline/>
- <http://penfieldbuildingblocks.org/category/positive-parenting/>
- http://www.naeyc.org/yc/files/yc/file/201305/Meeting_Sensory_Needs_Thompson_0513.pdf



RESOURCES

- Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>
- Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wmels-about.php>
- Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices <http://www.dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Registry Training Calendar <https://www.the-registry.org>
- WI Early Care Association (WECA) Training Calendar <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/>
- MECA Special Needs Support Program (SNSP) <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/meca/specialneeds>

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