



## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO

# Behavior Management

### PROACTIVE AND PREVENTATIVE TIPS Creating a Safe and Positive Environment

#### FOCUS ON BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS

##### *Younger Students*

- Get to know student interests. Start the day with fun and positive daily check-in's. Offer help proactively with new routines.

##### *Older Students*

- Collaborate with your students. Offer choices. Choices allow students to partake in the decision-making process. Thus increasing engagement and decreasing problem behavior.



#### MORE POSITIVE THAN CORRECTIVE INTERACTIONS (4:1 RATIO)

Increases connection and builds strong relationships in the first few weeks. Deliver more positive statements than corrective statements. For every 1 corrective statement, give 4 positive statements. Maintain attitude of respect and support when correcting behavior.

##### *Younger Students*

- Personal greetings, smiling, nodding, giving thumbs up, make eye contact when giving feedback.

##### *Older Students*

- Positive statements such as "I'm happy to see you today!". Offering assistance such as "What do you think about trying it this way?"



#### USE BEHAVIOR SPECIFIC-PRAISE

You want to encourage the behaviors you want to see more of. Focus on what the student is doing right, not what they should stop doing. We encourage you to use a reinforcement system.

##### *Younger Students*

- Praise students by stating their name and describing the behavior you want to see more of. Such as "Ella, wow I love how nicely you are sitting and looking at me." or "Thanks for putting your books in your desk, now we know where to find your things!"

##### *Older Students*

- Use a sincere tone of voice. and make it age-appropriate. Writing individualized sticky notes (best to do at the beginning of the school year) such as "I appreciate the way you..." or "I noticed that you....that was very responsible of you!"



#### CONTROLLING OUR OWN BEHAVIOR AND EMOTIONAL REACTIONS

**DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY- BREATHE, SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE!**

This is a big contributor to safety when working with behaviorally challenging students. The meaning of your words must communicate respect, no matter what the student may have done or is doing.

- Keep instructions short and simple.
- Use age-appropriate language. Say "please" and "thank you". Avoid yelling or screaming.
- Use a friendly and positive tone and moderate volume when redirecting.
- If the student is behaving inappropriately, keep your tone neutral.
- Maintain a neutral "poker" face. Avoid gestures such as eye-rolling.
- Be very careful with humor. Although humor can be a valuable way to motivate and make things fun, avoid sarcasm or making fun of people.
- Tag in a student support staff or other adult when needed (i.e., if you're feeling overwhelmed).

