



Center for Early Education and Development

Tip Sheets

Addressing the Needs of Young Children who Engage in Challenging Behaviors

Positive Behavioral Intervention Plans

What is a Positive Behavioral Intervention Plan?

- A Positive Behavioral Intervention Plan (PBIS) is developed once a Functional Behavioral Assessment is completed and the function of the challenging behavior has been determined.
- A PBIS should include a description of the challenging behavior, its function(s), and the desired alternative behavior. It should also clearly specify the predictors or antecedents of the challenging behavior, and the consequences that are maintaining the behavior should also be explained along with any new consequences for the challenging behavior. Over all, the plan should be as descriptive and concise as possible to be easily understood by all team members.



reinforce the behavior, the actual goal of a PBIS is to intervene before the onset of the challenging behavior. The information gathered regarding the predictors and reinforcers of the challenging behavior from the functional behavior assessment will guide this process.

What is the goal of a PBIS?

- The goal of a PBIS should not only be to decrease challenging behavior but also to teach new skills or provide the child an alternative means of communicating their needs without engaging in challenging behavior. This is why it is critical that we do not simply rely on reactive strategies (see tip sheet on reactive strategies) to the challenging behavior but instead use antecedent strategies to create those teaching opportunities.

For additional information on this topic, please visit CEED's web site at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed>.

Who should write a PBIS?

- A PBIS should be written by the child's IFSP or IEP team and all team members should have input and agree on the plan.

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What should be the focus of the PBIS?

- The focus of a PBIS should be on curricular adaptations. While as a team you will need to discuss an appropriate consequence for the challenging behavior that will not



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