PREVENT

Strategy: Clearly state 3 to 5 appropriate behaviors your child can engage in

1. Identify three to five appropriate behaviors your child can engage in regularly (for example, “Share toys,” “Follow directions,” “Use kind words,” “Listen and respond”). Ensure the child can engage in each behavior without support.

2. Behavior expectations should be positively stated. For example, say, “walking feet” rather than “no running”; and say, “use kind words” rather than “no yelling.”

3. Create a visual picture or drawing for each expected behavior.

4. Review the behavior expectations by stating the expectation and providing an example as frequently as possible (at least several times per day) after they are initially introduced. Use visuals of the behaviors and post them around your home in relevant areas.

5. Model and practice the behavior expectations with your child, being careful to use the same language each time (for example, while playing with blocks say, “Here is a block, I am sharing with you”).

6. Frequently praise your child when they engage in these appropriate behaviors. Make sure your praise describes specifically what they are doing well (for example, “I like how you use gentle touches when playing with your sister”).

7. Remind your child of the behavior expectations every day. In particular, remind them before schedules and routines your child has difficulty with or during which challenging behavior typically occurs. For example, before you enter the store say “Remember in the store we are going to use walking feet, keep our hands to ourselves, and follow directions.”