

ABA Supports Training Guide: Behavior Management

MIKE MIKLOS: Children with autism often have difficulty related to communication. They can't label things in their environment. They can't ask for what they want. They can't direct another person to help them when they need help. These issues related to communication often lead to problem behavior, temper tantrums, aggression, and sometimes self-injurious behavior.

TYLER: Stand up. Stand up.

MIKE MIKLOS: Managing problem behavior is always a concern for the students we serve. Christian was upset because something he likes was removed. Tyler immediately began asking Christian to do things that Christian had already been taught. They were tasks that we knew he would be highly likely to cooperate with. Once Christian cooperated with those demands, it led to him being able to ask for what he wanted. In this case, he asked for the puzzle.

AMIRIS DIPUGLIA: Teachers identify the function of the behavior, what's maintaining that problem behavior, and then addressing that with effective interventions that include antecedent manipulations to prevent the behavior, teaching an alternative behavior, and insuring that the problem behavior does not contact reinforcement.

MIKE MIKLOS: Problem behavior often results in children not being able to control their environment, not being able to get what they want when they want it.

WOMAN: Here we go.

JEAN GORDON: Brooke has had a long history of problem behaviors, as it seemed often the function of those behaviors was to communicate something she wanted, but didn't have a way to ask for it. We've tried to change the value of things, trying to pair participating in activities with positive reinforcement. And Brooke has learned to use language to communicate and control her environment.

MIKE MIKLOS: Teaching children alternative means of requesting will often serve to reduce problem behaviors. Our goal is to teach children skills they need to get along with others. For more information, visit the PaTTAN website.