**Preventive Classroom Behavior Management Practices[[1]](#footnote-1)**

George Sugai, Brandi Simonsen, Jen Freeman, and Susannah Everett

Centers for Behavioral Education and Research and on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

University of Connecticut

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**DRAFT**

**PURPOSE**

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| This guide was developed to provide an overview of recommended practices for student behavior within effective school-wide and classroom systems. To be most useful, the implementation of these practices and supports should be led by a team and integrated within a multi-tiered positive support framework in which all students have maximum opportunities and direct access to effective academic and behavior instruction curricula school and classroom wide. |  |

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The following guiding principles reflect a positive behavior support perspective and should be applied across all school and classroom responses to student behavior.

**Professional** Respond in manner that is business-like, objective, neutral, impartial, unbiased

**Cultural** Be considerate of learning history and experience (e.g., family, community, peer-group)

**Informed** Use progress data to make decisions

**Fidelity** Use data on implementation accuracy and fluency

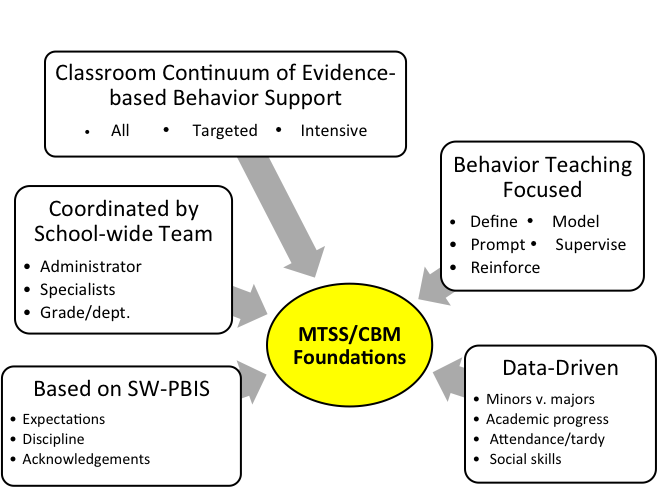
**Educational** Consider quality of design and delivery of instruction

**Constructive** Explicitly teach, model, prompt, monitor, and reinforce expected behavior

**Preventive** Pre-arrange environment (antecedents and consequences) to anticipate and encourage previously taught alternative social skills and discourage anticipated behavior errors

**Developmental** Consider age, cognitive, and physical characteristics

To insure consistency, efficiency, and relevance for all students and staff, the implementation of classroom behavior management must be integrated within a multi-tiered school-wide system behavior supports. Classroom teachers should adapt classroom behavior expectations to their curriculum, design of instruction, etc.; however,



**GENERAL BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DURING PLANNED ACTIVITY**

The best practices below represent general strategies for establishing and maintaining positive behavior during planned activity (Geoff Colvin, Jen Freeman, Diane Myer, Brandi Simonsen, George Sugai). The emphasis is on planned preventive practices that are designed to establish healthy environments, encourage language interactions, and develop caring and trusting relationships (Kate Gallagher, 10 April 2015 TEDxUNC. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=fXf3CCyhLGU#t=12>).

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| **When** | **What** | **Example** |
| **ALL THE TIME** | * *ACTIVELY SUPERVISE continuously (scan, eyes up, move)* * *MODEL expected behavior* * *REMIND of expected behavior before problem situations* * *DESCRIBE and RESTATE frequently* * *RECOGNIZE successful expected behavior whenever possible* * *RETEACH when behavior errors occur* | |
| **Previous problem** | 1. Precorrect (restate) positively & acknowledge ASAP before problem reoccurs. | * *“What do we do when…”* * *“Show me….”* |
| **Coming to group** | 1. Greet positively w/ student name | * *“G’morning, Mike”* * *“Hello, Darci”* * *“Buenos Dias, Margie”* |
| **First minute** | 1. Review classroom/school behavior expectations | * *“Ready to learn”* * *“Ready to do\_\_\_\_”* * *“Raise hand”* |
| **~1 every 5 minutes** | 1. Acknowledge displays of behavior expectations | * *“Thank you for…”* * *“Excellent being ready….”* * *“Good listening, Jorge”* |
| **Minor behavior event** | 1. Respond quickly and briefly to minor problem behaviors   1st time: Acknowledge others for expected behavior  2nd time: Quick reteach | * *1st – “Thank you, Manuella, for…..”* * *2nd – “When you need help, raise your hand, and I will help you.”* |
| **Closing transition** | 1. Close positively w/ student name | * *“Ashley, good job w/….”* * *“Nick, thank you for….”* * *“Jorge, mucho gracias…”* |

**BASIC TEACHING APPROACH**

A common and basic teaching approach (below) is used (below) for both academic and social behaviors. Teaching and learning important academic and social behaviors is characterized as follows (Wes Becker, Doug Carnine, Geoff Colvin, Zig Engelmann, Ed Kame’enui, Deborah Simmons):

**Direct** Student engagement is teacher led

**Active** Opportunities to respond are many, overt, and observable

**Explicit** Presentations of skill or concept are clear

**Unambiguous** Examples and non-examples are carefully selected

**Planned** Activities developed and sequenced to lead directly to specific outcomes

**Informed** Instructional decisions guided by student responsiveness

**Validated** Outcomes and instruction are important to all

**Preventive** Strategies designed to avoid errors and misrules

**Positive** High rates of success are planned an experienced

**Equitable** Culture and context of students, staff, family, and neighborhood are considered.

When teaching classroom behaviors and routines, the same basic teaching approach that is used to teach academic skills, concepts, knowledge, etc. is followed:



**PHASES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Teaching and learning academic, social, and behavior skills occurs in phases that have different teaching emphases (Don Bailey, Norrie Haring, Kathleen Liberty, Ogden Lindsley, Owen White, Mark Wolery)

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| **PHASE** | **EXPLANATION** | **TEACHING EMPHASIS** | |
| **Teaching1** | **Reinforcement2** |
| **Acquisition** | *Doing it accurately* | *Show, model, & demonstrate with range of place & behavior examples* | *Reinforce each correct response (continuous)* |
| **Fluency** | *Doing it smoothly & at correct pace or speed* | *Remind, prompt, & precorrect* | *Reinforce accuracy & rate of correct responding* |
| **Maintenance** | *Keep doing it after teaching* | *Reduce and eliminate reminders, prompts, & precorrects* | *Gradually shift from continuous to intermittent reinforcement for correct responses* |
| **Generalization** | *Keep doing it in similar places* | *Show, model, demonstrate with range of new place examples* | *Intermittently reinforce correct responses observed in new places & conditions* |
| **Adaptation** | *Adjust doing it to fit new & different places* | *Show, model, & demonstrate with range of new place & behavior examples* | *Intermittently reinforce correct responses adapted to new places & conditions* |

**1** Error Correction = Restate and reteach skill/behavior and acknowledge accuracy and fluency.

**2**Reinforcement = Verbal praise, progress recognition, positive gesture, school-wide reinforcers, etc.

The following example provides a simple lesson plan for teaching expected behavior. The emphasis is on a label, place, and behavior examples.

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| **SAMPLE BEHAVIOR TEACHING PLAN** | **Labeled Expected Behavior** | | | |
| **Setting/Context** | *Respect Self* | *Respect Others* | *Respect Environment* |  |
| *Entering/Exiting Classroom* | * Keep hands to self | * Use inside voice | * Hang up coat |  |
| *Group Activities* | * Have materials | * Wait turn | * Put materials away |  |
| *Independent Activity* | * Have a plan | * Take turns | * Put materials away |  |
| *Snacks/Lunch* | * Wash hands | * Talk when done chewing | * Put trash in basket |  |
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**Teaching Plan for Expected Classroom Routines**

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| **Expected Routine** | **When** | **How** | **Where** | **Teaching Schedule** |
| *Submitting Homework* | *Before 9:00, Mon, Wed, Fri* | 1. *Open individual e-folder* 2. *Open subject e-folder* 3. *Open due date folder* 4. *Insert homework* | *Classroom e-folder* | *Each morning first week of each grading period*  *Mon & Fri reminders* |
| *Handling Disagreements (problem solving)* |  |  |  |  |
| *Asking for Assistance* |  |  |  |  |
| *Managing anger* |  |  |  |  |
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**Lesson Plan for Expected Classroom Routines**

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| **TEACHING STRATEGY** | **EXPECTED CLASSROOM ROUTINE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **DEFINE Simply** |  |
| **MODEL w/ clear examples & nonexamples** |  |
| **PRACTICE multiple examples in natural settings** |  |
| **Supervise, ACKNOWLEDGE, & reteach** |  |
| **ADJUST instruction based on progress** |  |

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**PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

The guidelines below serve as a reference for selecting and using effective behavior management practices (Geoff Colvin, Jen Freeman, Sarah Fairbanks, Tim Lewis, Diane Myers, Terry Scott, Brandi Simonsen)

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| **BEHAVIOR** | **SPECIFIC PRACTICES**  ***Respond promptly, explicitly, authentically, and contingently*** |
| 1. ***Appropriate behaviors*** that represent school and classroom expectations. | * Signal occurrence of appropriate behavior * Name appropriate behavior and related school-wide expectation * Deliver explicit and specific praise and effective reinforce |
| 1. Infrequent and non-disruptive ***minor*** behavior errors (e.g., out of seat, talking, late, unprepared) | * Minimize attention, using planned ignoring or differential reinforcement * Signal error occurrence and remind of expected behavior, using specific error correction * Model/display expected behavior, using strategies to teach expectations * Reinforce displays of expected behavior immediately, using specific praise or other acknowledgement strategies |

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| 1. Repeated and non-disruptive ***minor*** behavior errors and/or disruptive ***major*** behavior errors (e.g., property damage, verbal/physical aggression) | * Follow school procedures for responding to rule violations and individualized behavior support plan * Prompt expected behavior before error occurs in high likelihood situations/conditions (precorrect) * Minimize excess attention * Determine likely purpose, or function, of behavior error by collecting data * If behavior error occurs and based on purpose   + Signal error occurrence, using specific error correction   + Model/display expected behavior, using strategies to teach expectations   + Reinforce displays of expected behavior, using specific praise or other acknowledgement strategies |
| 1. ***Administrator-managed*** behavior errors (e.g., threats; physical injury, substance, illegal possessions, harassment) | * Follow school procedures for responding to rule violations and individualized behavior support plan * Minimize excess attention * Signal error occurrence and remind of expected behavior, using specific error correction * Follow school-wide procedures for major rule violating behaviors * Reteach, review, and prompt expected behavior, using strategies to teach expectations * Monitor, by collecting data * Reinforce displays of expected behavior, using specific praise or other acknowledgement strategies |
| 1. Problem behavior that is **repeated, disruptive, and unresponsive** to previous school and classroom practices | * Form behavior support team and conduct functional behavioral assessment (FBA) * Develop individualized behavior intervention plan (BIP) * Provide supports to implement plan with fidelity * Collect and use data to continuously monitor progress, responsiveness to intervention and implementation fidelity * Continue preventive school and classroom practices. |

1. Adapted from “PBIS Technical Brief on Classroom PBIS Strategies” (Simonsen et al., January 2015). OSEP Technical Assistance Center on PBIS. For additional resources, go to [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org). For specific assistance, contact Brandi Simonsen (Brandi.simonsen@uconn.edu) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)