

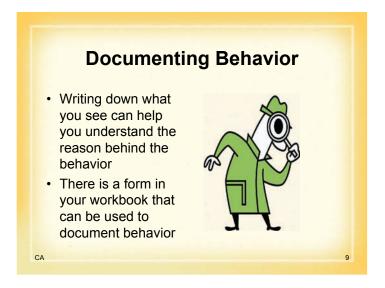
Understanding Behavior

- Often we understand what a child is communicating through his/her behavior
- Sometimes it is difficult to be sure
- · Looking at four things can help us understand
- 1. What happened before the behavior?
- 2. What is the **FORM** (type) of the behavior?
- 3. What happened after the behavior?
- 4. What is the possible **FUNCTION** of the behavior?

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Challenging Behavior Works

- Children engage in challenging behavior because it "works" for them.
- Challenging behavior meets the function for the child
 - Obtaining access to something or someone (i.e., gain/request/initiate) or
 - Avoiding something or someone (i.e., escape/avoid) or
 - Expressing emotion
- The function is the purpose/the meaning behind the behavior. What the thought bubble
- ca above your child's head would say.





Where Do You Stand?

Statement 1:

- I think children should never drink soft drinks (soda).
 Statement 2:
- I would rather buy my child whatever he wants than have people stare at me because he has a temper tantrum in the grocery store.

Statement 3:

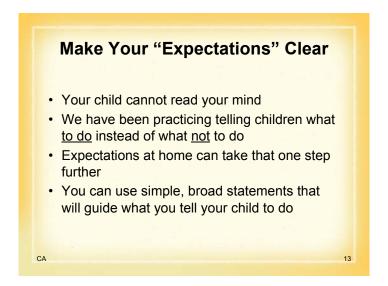
 It's the parent's fault when a child continues to exhibit challenging behavior. It is just bad parenting!

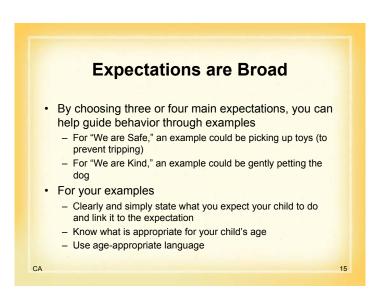
Statement 4:

 Children who tantrum in public places should be removed from that setting (airplane, park, etc.).

Behavior is in the Eye of the Beholder

- Given how differently we can feel about different behaviors, it isn't surprising to find that children get mixed messages about behavior
- Making our expectations for behavior clear can be helpful in preventing and addressing challenging behavior







Expectation Examples

- Our Family Is Friendly and Kind
 - Let your sister have a turn with the book
 - Help Mommy set the table
- Our Family Is Respectful
 - Ask before you use something that belongs to someone else
- Our Family Is Safe and Healthy
 - Get to bed on time
- Other ideas?
- Add your ideas to your workbook, Activity 12

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