

# Early Years COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## Understanding a Child's Behavioural Responses: Supporting Children's Participation in Early Childhood and Community Settings

### Child & Family

**Acknowledge Individual Differences:** Recognise that each child has a unique profile and upbringing, influencing their behavioural responses. Understanding these differences allows for tailored support strategies that cater to individual needs.

**Create a Safe Environment:** Consider the needs of children within the classroom setting. Implementing sensory friendly practices such as providing quiet areas, using soft lighting, and offering fidget tools can help create a conducive environment for learning and positive behaviour. Additionally, establishing predictable routines provides a sense of security and stability for children, reducing anxiety and stress.

### Educator/Adult

**Foster Positive Relationships:** Building positive relationships and connections with students is essential for creating a supportive learning environment. By taking the time to get to know each child, listening to their concerns, and showing empathy and understanding, educators can establish trust and rapport, which in turn, positively influences behaviour.

**Understand Individual Perspectives:** Recognise that children come from diverse backgrounds and have unique experiences, emotions, and thought processes. By understanding and respecting these individual perspectives, educators can better support children in managing their behaviours and emotions effectively.

### Co-regulation

**Guide Children in Managing Emotions and Behaviours:** Co-regulation involves actively supporting children in recognising, understanding, and regulating their emotions and behaviours. Educators/adults play a crucial role in providing guidance, modelling appropriate behaviours, and offering support when children face challenges. By fostering a safe and supportive environment, educators/adults empower children to develop self-regulation skills and navigate social interactions effectively.

**Build Trust:** Trust forms the foundation of coregulation. When children feel safe, respected, and supported by their educators/adults, they are more likely to open-up, express their emotions, and seek guidance when needed. Building trust involves being consistent, responsive, and reliable in interactions with children, creating a secure attachment that promotes emotional wellbeing and positive behaviour.

### Intervention Strategies

**Observe Antecedents and Assess Functional Impacts:** When addressing challenging behaviours, it's essential to identify the antecedents or triggers that precede them and understand the functional impact they have on the child's behaviour. By observing patterns and assessing how behaviours affect the child's ability to function in various situations, educators can develop targeted intervention strategies that address the underlying needs and promote positive outcomes.

**Tailor Support Approaches:** Recognising that every child is unique, it's crucial to tailor support approaches to meet individual needs effectively. This may involve implementing personalised behaviour plans, providing additional resources or accommodations, and collaborating with other professionals or caregivers to ensure comprehensive support for the child.

In conclusion, **by acknowledging individual differences, fostering positive relationships, prioritising coregulation, and implementing targeted intervention strategies**, educators/adults can create inclusive environments where every child feels supported, valued, and empowered to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

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