



My child's school behavior is getting in the way of learning.

Behavior Plans for students in Special Education are part of Special Education law:

- The IEP team must consider positive behavior supports and other strategies when a student's behavior gets in the way of their learning or the learning of others.
- A behavior support plan can be written for a variety of behaviors such as not paying attention or self stimulation. The behavior doesn't need to be "misbehavior." Ask the question: Is the behavior getting in the way of learning?
- The law requires a special type of behavior assessment and behavior plan if the behavior is serious or extreme as defined in the California Education Code.
- Behavior Plans are NOT behavior contracts. Behavior contracts usually state what the school expects the student to do and are not part of the law.
- A Behavior Plan should not punish, but instead teach and reinforce positive behavior. Behavior Plans describe what the school will do to:
 - change the environment to reduce the need for the negative behavior
 - teach the student alternative behavior that helps with learning
 - reinforce the positive or alternative behavior

Behavior plans include other items that help in understanding what is going on.

What to do?

1. If your student is in Special Education, put in writing that you want an IEP meeting to discuss what supports can be provided to help your child's behavior. If your child has a Behavior Plan, ask to have it reviewed.
2. If your child is not in Special Education and you think your student may have a special need or disability that is making learning and behavior difficult, write a letter to your school district for a special education assessment (see *Matrix's Assessment Packet*).
3. All behavior is telling us something about a need that is not being met. Is your child trying to avoid or protest something or to gain something by the behavior?
4. Sometimes students act out at school as it is hard to learn, to manage the stimulation in the classroom or to manage a social situation. By acting out they are removed from the classroom and going to the principal's office may get them what they need – a less stressful situation or needed one-on-one attention.

A well developed Behavior Plan can change the way your child is taught. As a result, your child's behavior changes from this teaching! Learn more in our *Matrix Behavior Issues and Special Education* packet or call to discuss your child's situation.



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