

Reflecting on Expectations for Behavior

We each approach our work with staff members differently, but we can learn from one another. Watch the Realistic Expectations for Behavior Video. Then answer the questions that follow. There are no right or wrong answers. Simply think about the situation and how you might respond.

1. What tensions did the speaker feel during the situation?
2. What expectations did the teachers bring to their interactions with the child? How did the child conform or not conform to their expectations?
3. In many instances, a child's challenging behavior may give us a clue that the adult has unrealistic expectations. The opposite occurred in this situation: the adults' happiness over a lack of "challenging behavior" (crying) was problematic. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation?
4. How do you feel when it becomes clear that staff members have unrealistic expectations for behavior?
5. What would you say to these staff members to enhance their knowledge of child development?