

Refocus Your Lens: Viewing Behavior as Communication



Kids Included Together

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Presenter



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*Teaching disability inclusion practices
to people and organizations who serve children*

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1. Click or Copy/Paste the **CEU quiz link** in the Supplemental Resource Handout.
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Learning Objectives



Accurately describe how using the lens, *behavior is communication*, changes how a child is supported.

What is Behavior?

- **Observable actions in response to people, places, and things**
- **Behavior may communicate:**
 - **How a person thinks and feels**
 - **How the person takes in the environment**
 - **An unmet need**



What do you see?

kit

- Practice describing what you see.
- Use action words
- Focus on body language
 - Facial expression
 - Movement/pose



Our Lenses

- How we view children
- Viewing drives doing
- Common views
- Diagnostic view



Refocus



- **Blaming the family**
- **Relying on consequences to correct behavior**
- **Responding based on diagnosis**

Blame Game (Parents)

- You have a responsibility to act
- Assume it's the parent's problem to fix
- Assume behavior is due to poor parenting



Consequences (or Punitive Measures)



- **ASSUMPTIONS**
 - I thought this was ok
 - **Children ARE in control and should KNOW better**
- **Unrealistic expectations**

Diagnostic View


What information is most helpful for supporting a child?

- Interests, strengths, challenges
- Diagnosis



Behavior is Communication

The logo for KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the lowercase letters 'kit' in a white, sans-serif font, set against a dark orange, irregularly shaped background that resembles a splash or a brushstroke.

- 
- A man with a surprised or attentive expression is the central focus. He is wearing a black bowler hat and a plaid shirt. He has a pipe in his mouth and his right hand is cupped behind his ear, suggesting he is listening to something important or trying to hear a message. The background behind him is a light, textured grey.
- Be a detective
 - Receive children's messages
 - Don't take it personally
 - Go beyond the surface
 - Common functions of behavior

A teal-colored circle containing the word 'Get' in white text.

Get

A dark brown circle containing the word 'Avoid' in white text.

Avoid

An orange circle containing the words 'Meet Needs' in white text.

Meet
Needs

Refocusing to Support Behavior



1. Practice describing behavior objectively
2. Encourage others to view behavior as communication by:
 - Understanding Messages
 - Considering the Child's perspective
 - Doing their best
 - Problem-solving
 - Sharing your view with family
3. Practice using strength-based language



Wrap-up



Child needs
consequences

Demands exceed ability
= emotional crisis



**What is the
outcome?**

**How can you
change that?**

What changes
when we use
"Behavior is
Communication
" as our
perspective?



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Please take the survey!



Q & A with Nili

You are welcome to unmute to ask a question, or type your question in the chat box.

What is one take-away or “a-ha” moment you discovered?



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KITvirtual>

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