



presents...

Understanding Disruptive Behaviors

Changing the
Classroom so Students
Thrive

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Iceberg Model

Tip of the iceberg =
observable behaviors

Tantrum

Aggression

Self-Stimming

Screaming

Self-Injurious behavior

Isolating self

Refusal/non-compliance

Lack of understanding
(receptive communication)

Inability to express self
(expressive communication)

Social skill deficits

Difficulty with change

Sensory processing
problems

Below the tip = the underlying
reasons for the observable
behaviors

Adapted from Taylor, Utah State Office of Education

Behaviors = see
Causes = can't
see.

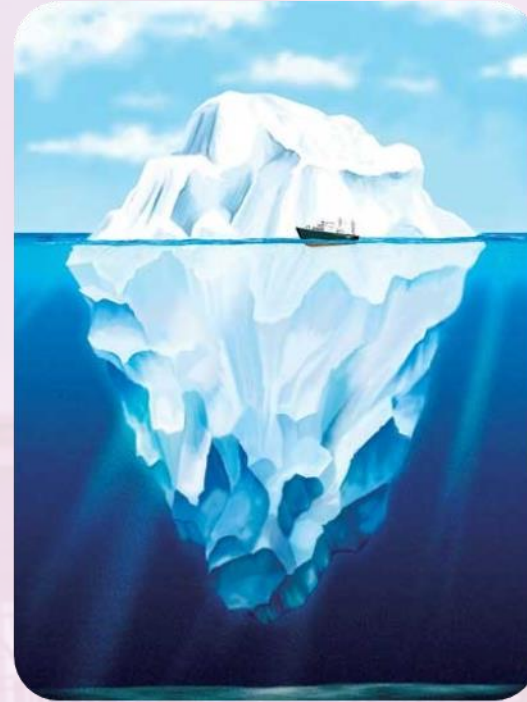
May not be able
to change below
the iceberg
BUT
we CAN address!

ABOVE THE **WATER LEVEL**

- What are behaviors you have seen with children?

BELOW THE **WATER LEVEL**

- What might be the underlying issues causing the behavior?



Under the water level: Issues underlying behaviors

Things I can't change in the moment

- Social Deficits
- Issues with Expression
- Receptive Communication

Things I can change in the moment

Expectations

Transition trouble

Access or Escape

Sensory overload

What's Under the Iceberg? Expectations

- **Too High**
- **Too Low**

Think....

- **What matters the most?**

What's under the iceberg? Transitions

The unknown....

- ❖ Rattling of my comfort zone
- ❖ Time of instability
- ❖ Lack of time to process

Transition is a part of life SO.... What do we do???

PREPARE

- ❖ Give a warning
- ❖ Use visual and auditory prompts
- ❖ Concise language

What's Under the Iceberg?

All behavior is an effort to..... **ACCESS OR ESCAPE**

WANTING TO ACCESS

- **Attention/Tangible** "Look at me!" or "I want that item."
- **Sensory Input** "This makes me feel good!"

WANTING TO ESCAPE

- **Attention/Demand** "I don't want to do that. Or "I don't want to play with you!"
- **Sensory Input** "I don't like how that feels/sounds."

Access or Escape?

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence	Access or Escape Then What
Teacher is talking to another teacher.	Child interrupts.	Teacher stops talking and tells child to wait.	
Teacher asks child to straighten area.	Child doesn't comply.	Teacher straightens it for the child.	
Teacher takes away child's iPad.	Child has a tantrum.	Teacher gives iPad back.	

SENSORY OVERLOAD Try-On!

- ❑ How did you feel?
- ❑ What did you witness?
- ❑ Did it affect your receptive language?

The Tool Box

- The SITUATION
- ENVIRONMENT
(control it!)
- VISUAL SUPPORTS
- LANGUAGE
- REINFORCERS



The Tool Box

Understand the SITUATION

What's the context?

What time of day?

What are your expectations?

What's going on at home?

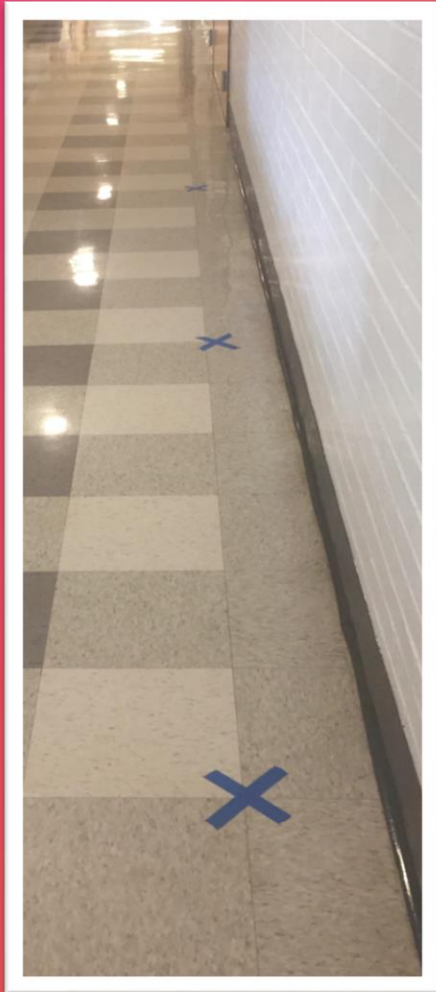
What happened **BEFORE** that triggered?

What happened **AFTER** that **reinforced** the behavior?

The Tool Box

ENVIRONMENTS MATTER

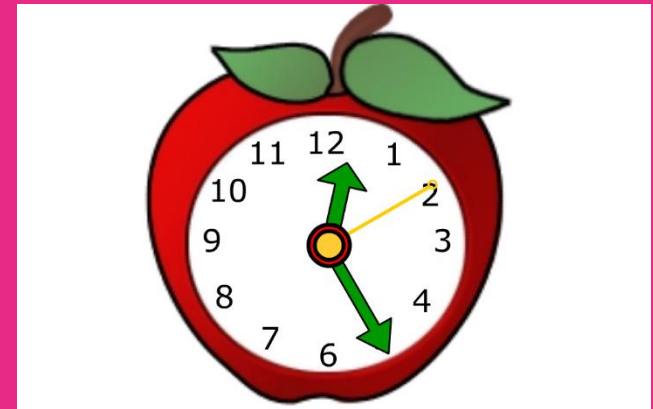
THINK Arrangement
and Boundaries



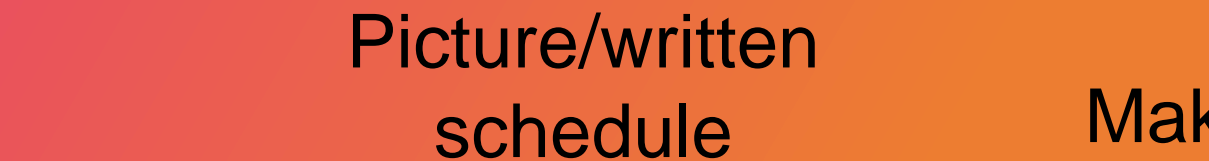
The Tool Box

VISUAL SUPPORTS MATTER!

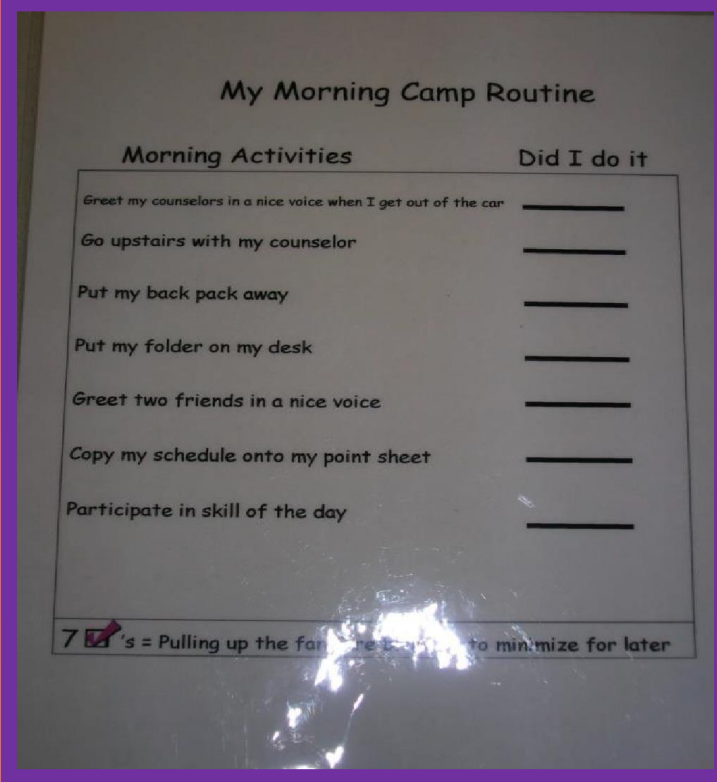
- WORDS HAPPEN IN TIME!
- Make directions concrete
- Clarify behavioral expectations
- Explain abstract concepts
- Allow kids to process the information at their own pace and refer back to it



VISUAL SUPPORTS MATTER



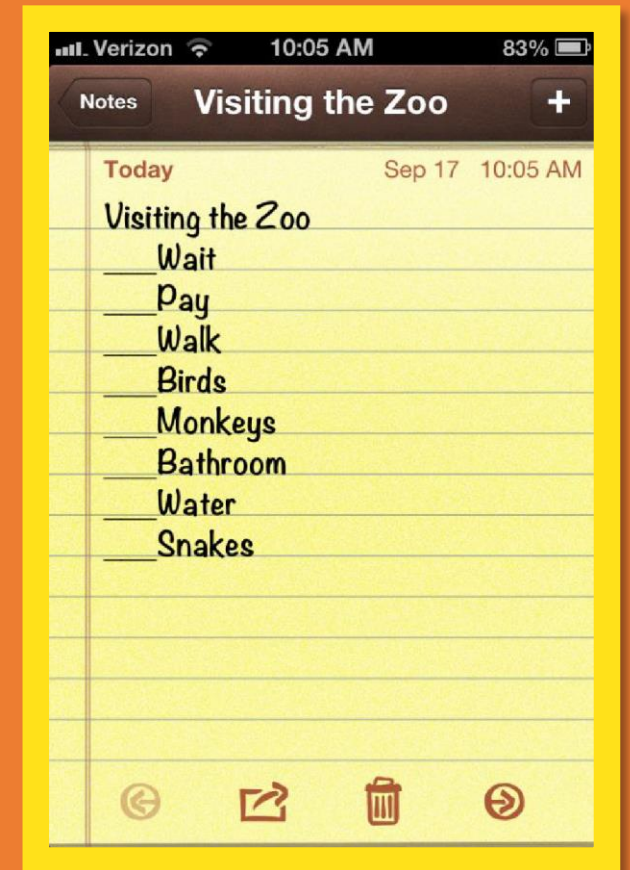
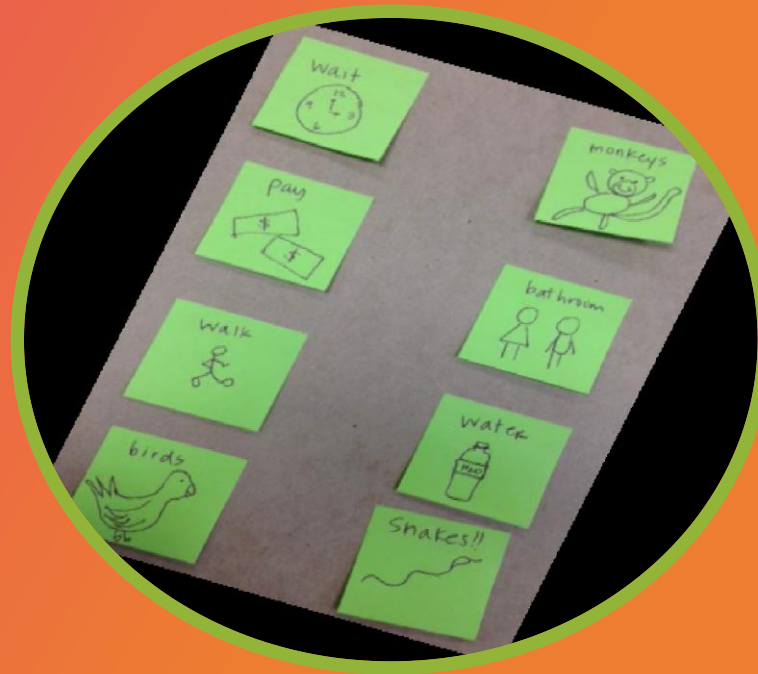
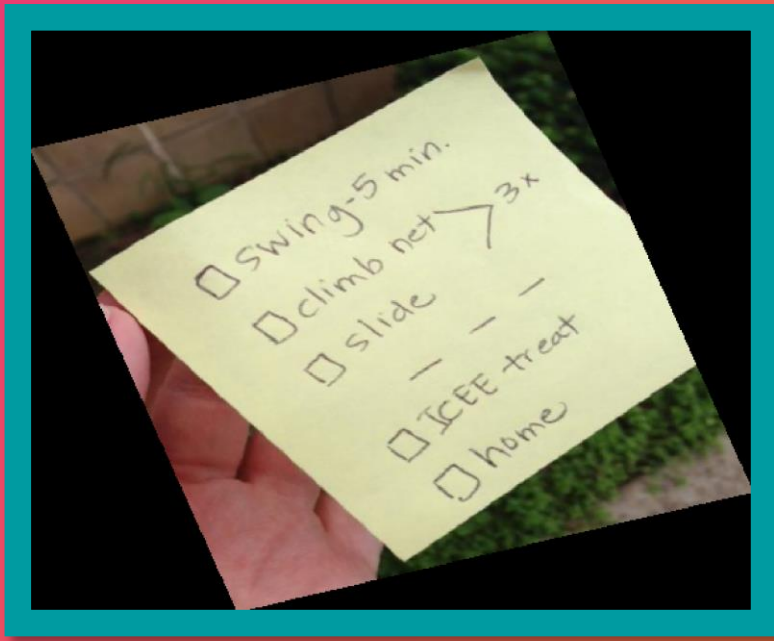
Make Time concrete



The Tool Box

VISUAL SUPPORTS MATTER!

Use What You Have!



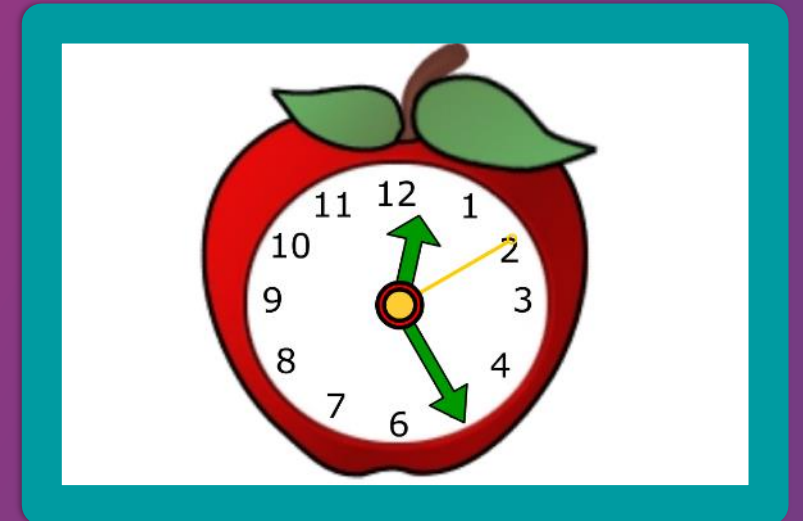
The Tool Box



LANGUAGE

#Keepitsimple...words happen in time

- 1. Give one direction at a time**
- 2. Minimize length of your directions**
- 3. Do not repeat your directions**
- 4. Give child time to comply**
- 5. Make “do” rather than “don’t” statements**
- 6. Provide a visual to help clarify directions.**



The Tool Box



REINFORCERS

How's that consequence working for you?

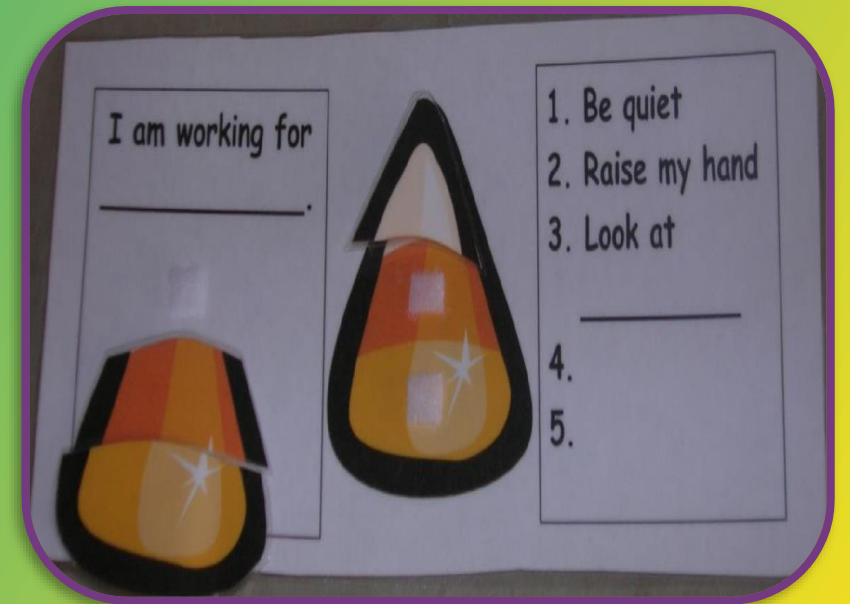
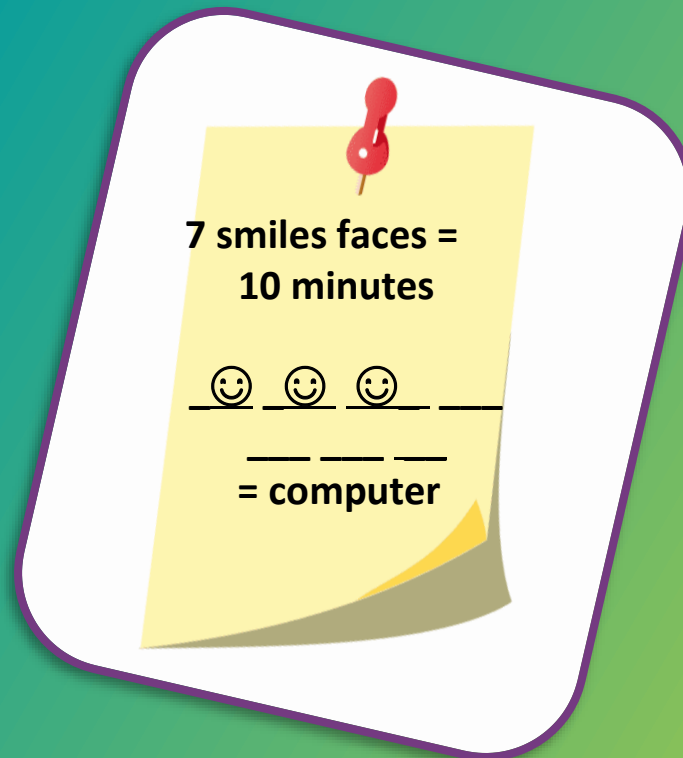
**A reinforce is a CONSEQUENCE
that increases the likelihood
the behavior will occur again.**

The Tool Box

REINFORCE THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

as kids earn **ACCESS** or **ESCAPE**

Reinforcer systems



Questions



Remember.....

- ❖ **ICEBERGs**

Access or Escape

- ❖ **TOOLS**

The Situation

Environment

Visual Supports

Language

Reinforcers



End of Parent Chat on Behavior