

The Meaning of Behavior

Instructions

You will be assigned to a group (pink, blue, or green). Each group has a table with two different behaviors to examine on each row. As you process the behavior, write down in the columns the answers to the questions listed on your group's page below.

EXAMPLE

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment	Questions/ Hypotheses	Strategies Do not complete yet
A 2-year-old suddenly, mid-year, starts to have serious separation anxiety when his dad drops him off at childcare.	<p>Children this age have a clear understanding of object permanence and memory. (dad still exists when not visible). They also have a developing sense of independence, wanting to explore but checking back to make sure dad is there. They do not yet understand time, which can lead to fears that dad will not return.</p> <p>Children driven by emotion, not logic. Do not have much self-control but want and need to exert control.</p>	Child may be slow to respond to new stimuli (approach and withdrawal), may have difficulty adapting to new situations, may have a low sensory threshold if the childcare center is very active.	<p>Assuming strong attachment.... The environment at the childcare center may have changed (new teacher, classroom, other new children).</p> <p>The time of drop-off may be different, there may be some changes in the home environment.</p>	<p>Home - has there been any changes at home? (new sibling, change in home routines, change in parental relationships, change in home environment)</p> <p>Has dad always been the one to drop the child off? What about time and routine of drop-off?</p> <p>Are there any changes in the childcare environment? (new teacher, classroom, other new children)</p> <p>Assume that one possible hypothesis is that mom just started a new job, requiring dad to be the one to drop off the child at childcare.</p>	<p>General strategies... Always say goodbye, telling them where you are going and when you will be back. Don't prolong the goodbye. Keep it light and positive. Once you leave, LEAVE.</p> <p>Remind your child you will return. If they say "daddy don't go," you can respond with "what does daddy do when he leaves?", looking for a response of "daddy comes back".</p> <p>A kiss to keep - plant a kiss in the child's palm and remind them it is always there.</p> <p>Secret picture - taped into their belongings that they can look at when they need it.</p> <p>Based on hypothesis... Before mom leaves for work, if possible, have a goodbye ritual with the reminder that mommy will see the child after his fun day at childcare. In the car, have dad talk through mommy going to work and how excited she is, and go through the routine of daddy will leave, _____ happens while you are at school, and after _____ activity, daddy will be there to pick you up to go home.</p> <p>Others?</p>

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Group Pink - What might be going on developmentally? What effect might temperament have? What would you want to know about what's going on in the family environment/context? What questions do you have, and what hypotheses might you want to explore?

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment	Questions/ Hypotheses	Strategies Do not complete yet
A 9-month-old gets very distressed in situations outside of the home - the grocery store, mall, play groups. He cries and is very clingy to his parents/ caregiver.					
A 2-year-old cannot settle for a substitute. If the purple pajamas are in the wash, she is inconsolable (even though you have offered the pink ones, the polka dot ones, the ones with the cupcake patch on the front, etc.).					

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Group Blue - What might be going on developmentally? What effect might temperament have? What would you want to know about what's going on in the family environment/context? What questions do you have, and what hypotheses might you want to explore?

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment	Questions/ Hypotheses	Strategies Do not complete yet
An 18-month-old has severe tantrums every time he doesn't get what he wants, sometimes banging his head on the floor, throwing objects, and biting.					
A 2½-year-old gets very upset when it's time to make a transition from one activity to another. When something doesn't go her way, she tantrums and gets physically out of control, sometimes biting.					

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Group Green - What might be going on developmentally? What effect might temperament have? What would you want to know about what's going on in the family environment/context? What questions do you have, and what hypotheses might you want to explore?

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment	Questions/ Hypotheses	Strategies Do not complete yet
A 21-month-old will sit and play with his 6-month-old sibling, and then will suddenly push the younger sibling down and throw a toy at him, making him cry.					
A 3-year-old does well when engaged in a structured activity, but during free play he wanders aimlessly around the room and sometimes engages in inappropriate behavior, such as running around or throwing toys out of baskets.					