

Handout 6.5

The Meaning of Behavior

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment
<p>A 9-month-old gets very distressed in situations outside the home—the grocery store, mall, play groups. She cries and is very clingy to her parents/caregiver.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			

Behavior	Development	Temperament	Environment
<p>A 3½-year-old gets frustrated very easily and breaks down as soon as he faces a challenge. He also doesn't join in his peers' imaginative play. When he does interact with peers, he mostly copies what they are doing. He also has become very silly and class-clownish, using potty talk or pulling down his pants to get his peers to pay attention and laugh.</p>			
<p>A 4-year-old gets very emotional if he doesn't get something he wants. He gets red in the face, on the verge of tears, and usually screams. He also has a hard time playing interactively with peers, needing to control everything, lacking flexibility. When he is building something with blocks and another child tries to join and help organize the blocks into a different design, he gets very upset.</p>			
<p>A 4½-year-old had previously separated fairly easily from his parents but has suddenly begun to get very upset when dropped off. When other children's parents come into the class for special events, he is sometimes so distressed he vomits.</p>			