

Protocol for Managing Difficult Behavior

In a group discussion, with all members of the management team present, consider each numbered task in order. Together, address one problem at a time. Try not to judge the relative merits of ideas until you reach step 7, for often the best ideas grow from impulsive thoughts.

1. Specify the Behavior Exactly		
2. Take a Before Measure		
3. Antecedents (setting)	Behavior	Consequences (reactions)

4. Ideas for each of the kinds of consequences

Ignore
Deny activities
Time out
Aversives
Personal record
Positive practice

5. Ideas for “good” behavior to reward

Incompatible (opposite)	Substitutable (more appropriate way)
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6. Ideas for each of the kinds of antecedents

Teach a new skill
Provide a timely cue
Set the stage
Reward others
Contract for not doing it

7. Decide what to try next

New antecedents	Behavior	New consequences
	-	
	+	

