

# Identifying Antecedents and Consequences

## 1. Lighting Matches

The sitter found seven-year-old Jimmy outside with a number of his friends playing with a box of kitchen matches. Jimmy would clown and throw the matches about as his friends laughed and joked with him. He called some of the flaming matches torpedoes as he threw them toward his audience. The crowd laughed and dodged them. The sitter took all the matches away and made him go into the house. Later Jimmy was bragging to a friend how he had really made the sitter mad.

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence

## 2. Dropping Objects

Crash! The adults and children turn their heads immediately toward the source of the noise. Five-year-old George is standing near the overturned “refrigerator” in the home center. He had apparently tipped it over to make noise. Earlier in the day, George placed a number of blocks on top of a shelf and then climbed up and dropped them one by one onto the floor. Two teachers ran to him. One lifted him off the shelf and put him on the floor. The other picked up the blocks. Both then told George how displeased they were with this disruption to the class. During all these incidents George had a wide grin on his face. He nodded “yes” when the teachers asked if he would not do it again. George put away the blocks and righted the refrigerator again.

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Arlene has been carefully laying out game cards on the table. Five-year-old Pam walks by and scatters the cards on the floor with a swipe of her hand. Arlene shrieks, and a teacher comes to the rescue, saying, “Oh no, Pam! Why did you do that? Arlene has been working so carefully on her game, and now you have ruined it. Pick up those cards right now!” Pam stands by without making a move. “Pam, I asked you to pick up the cards you spilled.” Pam again makes no move; then she slowly bends down and picks up one card. “That’s better,” says the teacher, turning to Arlene to soothe her. Pam watches this and moves away.

She goes to the art area where Chad is putting the finishing touches on a picture. A teacher looks at Chad’s work and says, “You did a beautiful job, Chad.” Pam goes to the shelf for a crayon and scribbles several lines across Chad’s picture. Chad yells and punches Pam. The teacher rushes to the scene, tells Chad he should not hit, and tries to calm the crying Pam.

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence