

Sample Hypothesis Statements and Possible Interventions¹

Hypothesis Statements	Modify Antecedents (Remove the need to exhibit the behavior)	Teach (Shape/Model/Cue) Alternative Behavior (Give an acceptable way to get needs met)
Suzy starts pinching herself and others around 11:00 am because she gets hungry (and is protesting that state).	Make sure Suzy gets breakfast. Provide a snack at about 9:30 am	Teach Suzy to ask for something to eat. Teach Suzy to retrieve her snack from a designated area.
Jack gets into arguments with the teacher every day during reading class when she asks him to correct his mistakes on the daily reading worksheet (and is protesting an activity he doesn't want to do).	Get Jack to correct his own paper (with the teacher's pen) using the teacher's answer key. Give Jack an easier assignment that will have less mistakes.	Teach Jack strategies to manage his frustration in a more appropriate manner. Teach Jack to ask for teacher assistance with the incorrect problems. Teach Jack to use a peer assistant to work together on the task.
Tara starts pouting and refuses to work when she has to sort a box of washers because she doesn't want to do the activity (and is trying to escape the task).	Give Tara half of the box of washers to sort. Give Tara clear directions about how much she has to do or how long she has to work. Have Tara sort objects that have more meaning for her (e.g., crackers into different cups for snack time).	Teach Tara to ask for a break from the activity.
Frank kicks other children in morning circle and then usually gets to sit right by the teacher (and is trying to protest other children being too close).	Give each child a clearly designated section of the floor that is his or hers. Give Frank a task (such as holding equipment needed in the circle) he can perform sitting adjacent to the teacher.	Teach Frank how to ask the children to move over; teach the children how to respond appropriately. Teach Frank how to ask the teacher to intervene with his classmates.
Harry is off task for most of math class when he is supposed to be adding two-digit numbers (and is trying to escape the task he finds difficult).	Ask Harry to add the prices of actual food items. Intersperse an easy activity with the more difficult math addition so Harry can experience success.	Teach Harry how to ask for help. Teach Harry how to monitor his rate of problem completion and provide reinforcement for a certain number of problems.

¹ Adapted from a chart in Foster-Johnson, L., Dunlap, G. A Using Functional Assessment to Develop Effective, Individualized Interventions for Challenging Behaviors@ *Teaching Exceptional Children*, Spring, 1993.