Talking with Families About Challenging Behavior Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
▶ Emphasize that your focus will be to help the child develop the skills needed to be successful in the classroom.	▶ Begin the discussion by indicating that the child's behavior is not tolerable.
▶ Begin the discussion by expressing concern about the child and wanting the child to feel supported in the classroom.	▶ Ask the family if something has happened at home to cause the behavior.
▶ Let the family know that your goal is to support the child.	▶ Indicate that the family should take action to resolve the problem at home.
▶ Ask the family if they have experienced similar situations and are concerned.	▶ Initiate the conversation by listing the child's challenging behavior. Discussions about problem behavior should be framed as "the child is having a difficult time," rather than losing control.
▶ Tell the family that you want to work with the family to help the child develop appropriate behavior and social skills.	▶ Leave it up to the family to manage problems at home; Develop a plan without inviting family participation.
▶ Tell the family about what is happening in the classroom, but only after the family understands that you are concerned about the child, not blaming the family.	▶ Let the family believe that the child needs more discipline (the child needs instruction and support).
▶ Offer to work with the family in the development of a behavior support plan that can be used at home and in the classroom.	▶ Minimize the importance of helping the family understand and implement positive behavior support.
▶ Stress that if you can work together, you are more likely to be successful in helping the child learn new skills.	

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