

THE PLAY PROFESSIONALS

DEALING WITH CHILD BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS

How to handle difficult behaviour

When a child misbehaves, the first step is to remain calm and address the behaviour in a consistent and respectful manner. you should:

- **Use positive behaviour strategies** such as praise for good behaviour, redirection, and setting clear expectations.
 - **Speak to the child at their level**, using simple, clear language to help them understand what behaviour was inappropriate and why.
 - **Identify the reason behind the behaviour**, as misbehaviour is often a form of communication (e.g., frustration, tiredness, or unmet needs).
 - **Offer choices**, where appropriate, to give the child a sense of control and responsibility for their actions.
 - **Model appropriate behaviour**, showing the child how to respond calmly and respectfully in challenging situations.
-

What actions to take if the child/children continue to misbehave:

If the behaviour continues despite initial intervention, you should:

1. **Reinforce boundaries** by calmly reminding the child of the rules and expected behaviour.
2. **Apply consistent consequences**, such as a short, age-appropriate reflection time (e.g., thinking chair or quiet space)
3. **Observe** the behaviour to identify any patterns or triggers and **document** all incidents in the child's file.
4. **Communicate with colleagues** and, if necessary, involve the SENCO, or/and the Operations Team for further support.
5. **Engage with parents/carers**, sharing observations and working together to support the child's development consistently across home and setting.
6. **Review and adapt strategies** if needed, ensuring the child receives the appropriate emotional or behavioural support.

The goal is always to support the child in learning appropriate behaviour through guidance, consistency, and understanding, rather than simply punishing them. It's crucial to focus on supporting the behaviour, not labelling the child.