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Complimentary Professional Development for Educators Technical Assistance Program

LIVE VIRTUAL COMPLIMENTARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

Early Childhood: Unpacking Challenging Behavior, Series 1

Thursday, November 5, 2026

8:30 - 11:30 AM or 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Presented by Shelene Harrelson, M.A. ECE

Early Childhood TAP Consultant

Unpacking Challenging Behavior through Everyday Classroom Practice. Part 1 of a 3-Part Series

Early Childhood: Unpacking Challenging Behavior is an interactive professional development training designed to help early childhood educators better understand and respond to challenging behavior through intentional, developmentally appropriate practices. Participants will examine their beliefs about challenging behavior, explore strategies for intentionally building positive relationships with children and families, and reflect on how the classroom environment influences behavior and engagement. The training will also focus on creating balanced schedules, explicitly teaching schedules and routines, promoting positive engagement throughout the day, supporting successful transitions, and understanding the important difference between classroom rules and expectations. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can use to create supportive, predictable, and engaging early childhood environments.

By the end of this training, participants will be able to:

- **Examine belief systems** about challenging behavior and how beliefs influence adult responses to children.
- **Identify intentional strategies for building positive relationships** with children and families.
- **Reflect on the classroom environment** and identify changes that can support engagement and reduce challenging behavior.
- **Develop balanced daily schedules** that appropriately incorporate active/quiet, teacher-directed, and child-directed experiences.
- **Use strategies to explicitly teach schedules and routines** so children understand what to expect throughout the day.
- **Promote positive engagement** through proactive, developmentally appropriate classroom practices.
- **Plan and support successful transitions** to reduce waiting, confusion, and challenging behavior.
- **Differentiate between rules and expectations** and use each effectively within an early childhood classroom.
- **Support challenging behavior in the early childhood classroom** by using proactive, developmentally appropriate strategies that identify the purpose of behavior, teach appropriate replacement skills, and promote children's social-emotional development and successful participation in classroom routines.
- **Apply preventative strategies** that create predictable, supportive environments and promote children's social-emotional success.

This training is applicable to General Education, Special Education, and other interested staff.

The PM session is the same as the AM session. A Survey will be posted in the zoom chat at the end of the presentation. You must complete the survey to receive a Certificate of Completion. You can join the PM session if you miss part of the AM session.

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