PTR-YC: Operational Definitions of Behavior

This document provides examples and practice opportunities for defining behavior in PTR-YC.

Examples of Operational Definitions

Challenging Behavior: Aggression toward others

Non-Example: Hurting others

Example: Kicking, biting peers/adults, pinching, scratching, falling to the floor, and/or picking up and throwing items toward peers/adults

Challenging Behavior: Noncompliance; not following directions

Non-Example: Wants control

Example: When asked or told to do something that she does not want to do, will walk away from the adult or continue to engage in the activity that she was engaged with

Challenging Behavior: Tantrum and destroying property

Non-Example: Throws a fit when he does not get his way

Example: Falls to the floor, kicking his legs and flailing his arms while screaming, "I hate you!" or "That's not fair!; runs around the room (may scream with or without words), pushes people, throws or "sweeps" items off surfaces in the classroom, and/or tears things off the walls

Practice

Determine if the following are operational definitions. If they are not, rewrite them so they are operational.

1. Lying on the floor
2. Disruptive behavior
3. Pushes plate away
4. Inappropriate play
5. Talks and/or calls out in a loud voice when the teacher is reading the story
6. Withdrawal