

MISBEHAVIOR OCCURS FOR A REASON

It is often difficult to understand why a student behaves irresponsibly, especially when the consequences of that behavior seem highly unpleasant. However, whenever a student or group of students exhibits irresponsible behavior on an ongoing basis, the behavior is occurring for a reason – it is not completely random. Therefore, the first thing you need to do is determine the reason for the misbehavior. Among the likely possibilities:

- The student doesn't know exactly what you expect.
- The student doesn't know how to exhibit the responsible behavior.
- The student is unaware that he or she is engaged in the misbehavior.
- The student is experiencing some pleasant outcome from exhibiting the misbehavior (e.g., she likes the attention she gets from adults or peers).
- The student is successfully avoiding some unpleasant outcome by exhibiting the misbehavior (e.g., she is getting out of assigned work).

The following is a list of categories of teacher-based actions for you to consider when making a plan.

1. Modify conditions (organization, physical structure, lesson activities, etc) to encourage more responsible behavior and discourage the irresponsible behavior.
 - Provide lessons to teach the student how to behave responsibly.
 - Assign different seats.
 - Modify work that is too difficult for the student not completing assignments.
 - Pace lessons more quickly so students are less likely to get off task.
 - Provide something for students to do when they have completed classwork.
2. Implement procedures designed to encourage responsible behaviors.
 - Give private verbal praise. (Younger students, K-gr. 2, may enjoy public praise.)
 - Write positive notes.
 - Contact parents regarding responsible behavior.
 - Occasionally reward individuals or the whole class with a special activity.
3. Ensure that students do not experience negative results from exhibiting responsible behavior.
 - Avoid embarrassing students with praise.
 - Ensure that no student is laughed at for making a mistake during class participation.
 - Ensure that no student is laughed at for behaving responsibly.
4. Remove any pleasant outcomes that might be resulting from the misbehavior.
 - Ignore misbehavior that is designed to get attention.
 - Respond calmly to a student who likes to make adults angry.
 - Ensure that a student is not getting out of doing assigned work as a result of the misbehavior.

5. Implement corrective consequences that will make exhibiting the misbehavior more unpleasant for the student.
 - Discuss with your teacher team and/or assistant principal a suggested list of appropriate consequences.
 - Contact the student's parents regarding the problem behavior.

Source: CHAMPS by Randall Sprick