

ABILITIESUNLIMITED LLC

Challenging Behaviors in Preschool

Challenging Behaviors in Preschool can lead to Lifelong Negative Effects

Displaying challenging behaviors during the preschool years is not an issue to take lightly. An alarming number of children attending preschool are being suspended each year (Gilliam, 2005). In addition, many children have been expelled. Absence from school may cause several problems including academic delays.

Young children are building fundamental relationship skills during these early years. Children who engage in challenging behaviors may miss the opportunity to learn important social and communicative skills. They are usually rejected by their peers. Their parents may also be rejected by their friends and family.

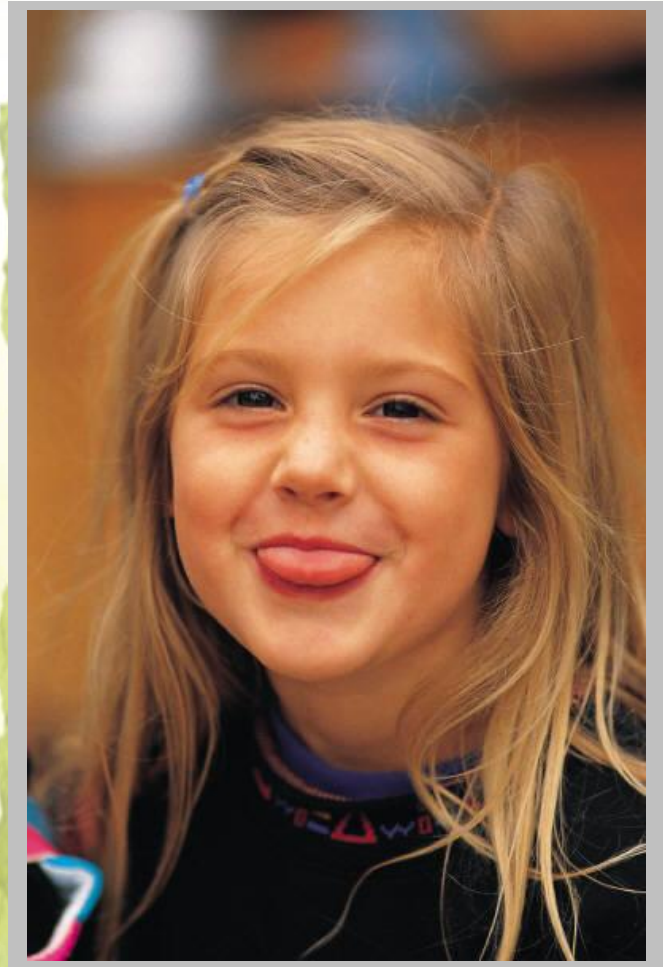
A young child's early educational experiences will determine their future life outcomes. Children who engage in inappropriate behaviors during these early, yet important, years are more likely to drop out of school and become involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

Challenging behaviors occur in all settings. It happens at home, at the playground, and in school. Children who display challenging behaviors come from all socio-economic backgrounds. Both boys and girls can engage in inappropriate behaviors. Unfortunately, most of the children who are being suspended are Black boys.

Parents and caretakers should address challenging behaviors immediately. It is a travesty to put them off for a later time. Moreover, it will be difficult to correct a child's behavior at a later age. In fact, it may be impossible to correct these behaviors at a later age. The sooner parents seek professional help the sooner these behaviors can be corrected and the child can learn more useful behaviors. All children can learn appropriate behaviors that will enhance their lives.

Unfortunately, most of the children who are being suspended are African American boys.

Beverly Dabrio, MA, BCBA



STEPS TO TAKE

- *Find a Board Certified Behavior Analyst*
- *Participate in Functional Behavior Assessment*
- *Implement the Behavior Plan*
- *Involve Everyone who Loves the Child*
- *Monitor Behavior Plan*
- *Adjust Plan as Needed*