

Behavior

When your child's behavior is troubling, ask yourself:

1. Is this a growth or developmental stage?

Each new phase of growth or development brings challenges for the child and the child's caregivers. For example, growing independence in the child's second year is often accompanied by challenging behavior (such as the "No!" phase).

2. Is this an individual or temperament difference?

Not all children of a certain age act the same way. Some progress developmentally at different rates, and all have their own temperaments that may account for differences in behavior

3. Is the environment causing the behavior?

Sometimes the setting provokes a behavior that may seem inappropriate.

4. Does the child know what is expected?

If a child is in a new or unfamiliar territory or is facing a new task or problem, he or she may not know what behavior is appropriate and expected.