

Redirection

Video Transcript

Title Screen: Redirection, The Maryland EXCELS and Maryland State Department of Education logos.

This video is an animated presentation where the content on the slides is represented in the narration.

Narrator: Redirection is a strategy that helps guide children before a situation escalates. Redirection shifts a child's focus from an unwanted behavior to one that is more appropriate. The goal is to minimize attention to the challenging behavior and give attention to the behavior you want to encourage.

There are different ways to redirect. It is important to consider the type of redirection that best aligns with the child and the situation:

Verbal redirection means using words to offer an alternative response for the child. For example: "Let's build with the blocks over here instead of throwing them." You're not just stopping the behavior, you're providing a better option.

Physical redirection means the use of physical touch or proximity to guide a child's behavior. Examples include gently moving a child's hand away from something unsafe or guiding them toward a new activity. The physical touch helps the child refocus.

Non-verbal cues can also be used for redirection. Sometimes, a quiet hand signal or simply walking over to a child may help to discourage inappropriate behaviors. You may teach the children non-verbal or visual signals such as turning off the lights or raising your hand in the air that have certain meanings like being quiet.

Attention redirection is a behavior strategy based on positive reinforcement. You draw attention to the behavior you want to see. A statement like "I love how Alynn is sitting quietly before we start." shifts the focus from the challenging behavior and gives the child a positive model to follow.

Remember, the key to redirection is timing. You want to use it before a behavior escalates. The earlier you step in with a calm and clear redirection, the easier it is for the child to reset and turn to more positive behavior.

Think about it. Take a minute to think about the different ways your program uses redirection with children. Is behavior redirected before it starts or is it fully in motion before someone gets involved? Which types of redirection are used and in what situation?

Please take advantage of this time to answer the questions. This will help you build an effective Positive Guidance Policy or strengthen the policy your program already has.