

Challenging Behavior Definition Sentence Starters

Purpose: Teams or individuals can use these sentence starters when operationally defining a student's challenging behavior. Use the phrase in the Operational Definition Stem column to start the definition and add in student-specific information.

Behavior Label	Operational Definition Stem
Disruptive Behavior	Behaviors that interfere with his/her learning or the learning of those around him/her...
Leaving Designated Area/ Elopement	Successful and/or unsuccessful attempts to leave the designated area without adult supervision and/or permission to include...
Inappropriate Commenting	Verbal comment/statements directed at peers or adults that may be argumentative or hurtful in nature to include...
Off Task	Engaging in behaviors other than the expected behavior/task (for longer than ____ amount of time) to include...
Physical Aggression (can specify towards peers or adults)	Physical contact with self, others, and/or property that is potentially harmful in nature to include...
Refusal	Verbal or nonverbal refusal to comply with an adult-given directive (within__amount of time). Examples to include...
Property Destruction	Successful and/or unsuccessful attempts to damage personal or public property to include...
Tantrum	An episode lasting at least ____ (amount of time) that may include the following behaviors...
Use of Profanity	Vocalizations consisting of vulgarities or expletives or words that are not age appropriate. Examples to include...