



## Family Engagement in Early Care and Education

## Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication Learning Activity: How We View Behavior



### Objective

The purpose of this activity is to understand that perspectives and feelings about behavior can vary because of the different experiences, culture, and temperament of family members and educators.

### Instructions

1. In small groups, read the brief descriptions below.
2. Think about the possible feelings and perspectives of the child, the educator, and the parent in each case. Imagine that the parent and educator have talked about each situation.
3. Write down your thoughts for each scenario.
4. Be ready to share your responses with the whole group.

### Descriptions

**Maria** is a 1-year-old just learning to walk. As is typical with children at this stage, she is waking up a lot at night. Her new ability means that she is also starting to be more mobile.

**Joshua**, almost 3 years old, climbed on a chair and stood up to reach a favorite toy on the counter at his home, despite his parent telling him not to do it.

**Fatima**, 4 years old, lay down on the ground outside at her early learning program and cried and kicked for 10 minutes when she found out she had to put on a helmet to ride the tricycle.

For more information about this resource, please contact us:  
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ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Parent, Family and Community Engagement