

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CONFRONTATION

- 1. How can I confront a student's inappropriate behavior without sounding defensive or threatening?**
 - Distinguish the gravity of the behavior. Is it dangerous, disrespectful, disruptive or is the student missing a self-discipline skill?
 - Gain control of your emotions, especially your voice.
 - Realize you cannot change anyone's behavior – you can prompt, give choices, request change, teach and then have someone practice a skill.
 - Say what you saw or heard. Don't assume you know what really took place.
 - Say what you think the student might be thinking.
- 2. Do I confront inappropriate behavior in front of the entire class or privately when I am alone with the student?**
 - Recognize the need for short term action to end the disruption so learning can take place and learn term action in which you discuss the inappropriate behavior and teach the student an alternative way of responding/reacting.
 - When the entire class is aware that the student has acted inappropriately a confrontation that allows the student to keep his/her self-esteem intact is acceptable. Not responding sets things up for a repeat of the behavior.
- 3. How do I confront the child on the playground who is brought to me by another teacher who expects me to discipline the child?**
 - You can ask the child to shadow you as you walk around the playground. During that time build rapport. Ask the child to tell you his/her side of the story. Ask if they broke any rules. Ask if anyone was inconvenienced. Ask how they plan to fix the problem but not make a problem for anyone else.
 - If you cannot determine what took place just say, "Something happened. I didn't see it. Please tell me about it and tell me one way you can avoid being singled out by a teacher.
- 4. If a situation involves a student in another classroom but I want to handle it, should I tell the other teacher or would they be offended because I want to discipline their student?**
 - Always ASK rather than TELL another teacher.
 - Describe what you intend to do
 - Report how the confrontation evolved
 - Ask for feedback from the teacher
 - When it is successful, share your plan of action with other teachers who might also have difficulty with the student.