

Breakout Room Activity



Room 1

Liam, 19 months old, lives with his mother, Allison, and father, Neil, and 4 year old brother, River. Neil has been on deployment for the past month and will return in a few weeks. Allison is concerned because Liam often bites his brother or toys, hits when he is upset, and throws his toys.

- What questions would you ask the mother?
- What could be possible underlying reasons for this behavior?
- What would you do next to support Liam and his family?

Room 2

Gracie, 24 months, lives with her mothers, Megan and Sammy. Her parents are concerned because Gracie has no boundaries. When guests are over, she will climb into their lap and show them toys bringing it close enough to touch their face. At child care, her teacher reports she will go up to any adult and start playing with their hair, and getting too close to them. In the community, Gracie will stray from her parents if they don't use a leash or stroller to keep her close.

- What are your initial thoughts about Gracie's behaviors?
- What could be possible underlying reasons for her behavior?
- What strategies would you recommend to support Megan and Sammy, and the child care teacher?

Room 3

Vanessa, 27 months, lives with her 19 year old mother, Kelly. Vanessa has some language delays and frequently becomes frustrated when Kelly doesn't understand what she wants or needs. When this frustration occurs, Vanessa makes a high-pitched screeching noise and falls on the floor in a tantrum. During a home visit, Edith, the home visitor, asks Kelly what she thinks Vanessa is trying to tell her. Kelly responds, "She's just mean. She's just like her father. I never know what she wants."

- What is YOUR reaction to Kelly's statement about Vanessa being mean?
- If you were Edith, what additional questions would you ask Kelly?
- What ideas would you offer?

Room 4

Gabe, 33 months, lives with his mother, Aaliyah, and her boyfriend, Titus. Gabe often uses a whining voice to tell his childcare providers what he wants and needs. He frequently asks if he can get his "lovey" out of his cubby and occasionally falls asleep in the book/quiet corner. An observer visits the childcare center where she observes Gabe asleep during a busy classroom activity. The childcare provider shares, "He falls asleep all the time and is so whiny. It's because he goes to bed whenever he falls asleep. His parents have no routine, no schedule, and they just let Gabe do whatever he wants."

- What is your reaction to the childcare provider's comments?
- Think of two questions you would ask the childcare provider to gather more information.
- How could the childcare provider have an open discussion with Gabe's parents? Be specific with how the conversation starts.

