



Behavior and Education

By: Bebe Bode

Many children have inappropriate behaviors that are part of their disability. These behaviors may make it difficult to learn, cause harm to the child or others, or isolate a child from his or her peers. Some children have behaviors that they can't control due to their

disability. For example, a child with Tourette syndrome may have involuntary movements and vocalizations (referred to as tics). Some children may be depressed or anxious. Others simply haven't learned appropriate ways to have their needs met. In any of these instances, the behaviors interfere with the children's ability to learn the skills they need to be successful.

As an Education Advocate at Families Helping Families, many of the phone calls we receive from parents are surrounding their child with a disability's behaviors in school that interfere with their education, suspensions (both in-school and out-of-school), and alternative school placement.

Many parents are unaware of the schools responsibility under the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#). IDEA states: The IEP Team shall, in the case of a child whose behavior impedes the child's learning or that of others, consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies, to address that behavior. [IDEA Section 614 \(d\)](#)

Schools are required to do **Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA)** on students who are displaying behaviors that are interfering in their or others education. Once an FBA is completed the IEP team selects interventions to directly address the problem behavior by creating a **Positive Behavioral Intervention Plan (PBIP or BIP)**. An FBA is especially necessary if the school is trying to make changes to a child's IEP placement to a more restrictive environment. A great tool for parents in understanding what a FBA and PBIP are is from the [Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice](#).

[Families Helping Families of Jefferson](#) has decided to center our yearly educational conference on **behavioral** challenges. The conference will focus on understanding the function of behavior, practical behavioral strategies and interventions, parental rights and school responsibility under IDEA, parents and teachers working together as allies, and information on home and community supports.

[Cracking the Behavior Code Conference](#) will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Dr., Metairie, LA. A continental breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. There are no costs associated with attending this conference.

Seating is limited. Registration is required. To register, please call 504-888-9111, 800-766-7736 or visit Families Helping Families of Jefferson on the web for [online registration](#).