

Creating a Positive BIP and a Crisis Plan

Does your child with a disability also have behavioral needs at school? If so, your child's IEP can be used to address those needs as well as the needs resulting from the disability itself. Adaptations for behavioral needs may include both a positive Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) and a Crisis Plan. The positive Behavior Intervention Plan is proactive in relationship to your child's behavior while the Crisis Plan reacts to your child's behavior. Carefully consider both plans as they each serve different purposes.

What is a positive Behavior Intervention Plan?

A positive Behavior Intervention Plan is a proactive plan that includes strategies to help prevent a behavior. Simple common sense interventions, such as moving a desk in a classroom may make a difference for some children. Other children may benefit from a more formal plan to address the behavior.

When a child's behavior disrupts the learning of themselves or others, the ARD committee is required by federal law to consider the use of positive behavior interventions, strategies, and supports to address the problem. It is important for the committee to consider ways to help your child learn positive behavior as well as academic skills. Remember, this plan should be positive from the child's standpoint also!

Where do you find information to write a positive Behavior Intervention Plan?

A positive Behavior Intervention Plan should be put together with information from:

- The student,
- The parents,
- Teachers or other staff who know the child well, and
- Evaluation results, such as those from a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), which helps determine the reason for the behavior through a review of existing data and observations.




Resources for Families

Need more information on IDEA, IEPs, or special education? Scan the QR code to access our online resources.



Partners Resource Network

 Offices in Lubbock, Houston, Austin, El Paso, and Dallas/Fort Worth

 1.800.866.4726

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What should a positive Behavior Intervention Plan include?

A positive Behavior Intervention Plan should include specific steps to help your child learn new behaviors and should address:

- Environmental changes to reduce or eliminate inappropriate behaviors,
- Strategies for teaching new skills to replace problem behaviors,
- Skills training to reinforce appropriate behaviors and increase their frequency, and
- Strategies to support the use of appropriate behaviors in various settings.

What is a Crisis Plan?

A Crisis Plan is a reactive plan that outlines how the school will respond when the child violates a school rule and endangers themselves or others. The ARD committee should consider school discipline policies to determine an appropriate response that fits the child and the nature of their disability. Even in a crisis, the response should be appropriate to the child's unique needs.

What should a Crisis Plan include?

A Crisis Plan should include specific steps to take after a problem behavior has occurred. The plan should focus on safety and stopping the dangerous behavior. A Crisis Plan should:

- Be used as a last resort in an emergency.
- Be focused on immediate elimination of dangerous behavior.
- Address what and how specific control procedures will be used (e.g. restraint, time out).
- Address how and when local police or the school police liaison officer will be involved.

Unless stated otherwise in the IEP, children with disabilities are expected to follow the same rules and policies as children without disabilities. Proactively addressing the subject of discipline ensures that your child is accountable for behaviors in a way that considers their disability.

Development of a positive Behavior Intervention Plan and a Crisis Plan are important additions to the IEP for students who find it difficult to meet standard school discipline expectations, or who, because of their disability, need to be taught appropriate behavior skills.



Have Questions about ARD Meetings?

Contact Partners Resource Network for assistance at 1-800-866-4726. Our Regional Coordinators are ready to help you with all your IEP concerns and can provide one-on-one individual assistance to fit your needs. All of our services are free of charge to parents and youth with disabilities.



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