

Reflective Activity: Student Behavior

Asking “why” a student is displaying a certain behavior allows you as a teacher to optimize a learning environment that accommodates all children. As the “why” is uncovered, better supports and systems can be put in place to address the underlying cause. Rather than putting a Band-Aid on the behavioral symptoms, we can address the underlying vulnerability. We know that most teachers want to understand the underlying cause when a child is having a difficult time, but many teachers don’t feel equipped to do so. The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) estimates one in five children have a learning difference, meaning in a classroom of 30 you are likely to have at least five to six students who require more support. Take a moment to think about those students and start to uncover the “why.”

Student with unique learning needs	Assumptions I make about him/her	Questions I can ask to gather more information