

REDIRECTING STUDENT BEHAVIOR



Tips for redirecting student behavior during Goal Buddy visits

AS A WHOLE GROUP

Entering the classroom at the beginning of a Goal Buddy visit can be chaotic as the teacher transitions the students from the lesson to the visit.

There are ways in which you can assist in this transition time.

Address the Class Directly

If the students transition quickly and quietly, pay the class a compliment. Positive reinforcement can go a long way in setting a standard the class will want to maintain. If the class did not transition well, let them know where you would like to see improvement by saying something similar to:

- "We have a limited amount of time to spend together, so welcoming me calmly and quietly is important so that we can make every moment count."
- "Thank you to the students who were prepared for my visit. Some of us took a bit longer to get ready. Let's work on that for next time."

Use Non-Verbal Cues

If the classroom seems to be a bit on the wild side when you arrive, it is appropriate to not provide acknowledgment of them until they are quiet and calm. This may look like standing off to the side and modeling the behavior for which the teacher is asking of the students. If a student approaches for a greeting or recognition, you may use a non verbal gesture like a stiff wave to indicate 'this is not the right moment' or hold up your pointer finger as if to say "I will get back to you in a moment."

ONE ON ONE

As you meet with students one on one, you may need to redirect behavior to facilitate a productive and meaningful conversation.

Student is Distracted

The hallway can be a fun and interesting place with a lot of people coming and going. If pulling the student back into the conversation is proving difficult, acknowledge the distraction so that the conversation can move on.

- You noticed that a class is lining up in the hallway. I see that they are doing a great job at following the hallway expectations. I want to know more about your reading goal. Can you read it to me?

Student Is Uncomfortable Talking

Some students are excited to have a Goal Buddy but are shy or need time to warm up to you. For the students who seem to struggle with this type of interaction, it is ok to lead the conversation and ask yes/no questions.

Student Is Uncooperative

Should a student be disruptive, defiant, or uncooperative, you may need to return the student to the classroom.

- "I really want to get to know you better and learn more about your goals, but we can't do that with this behavior. Return to your classroom and we'll try it again next time."

STUDENT LIFE SKILL GOALS

Life Skill goals tend to be highly individualized and pertain to a specific behavior. One way to help students is to identify the change or modification to behavior that must be made in order for the student to achieve their goal. If the life skill goal is to raise hand and wait to be called on before speaking, then the student must not shout out or speak out of turn. By identifying the change in behavior that must occur, the student can begin working towards achieving the goal.