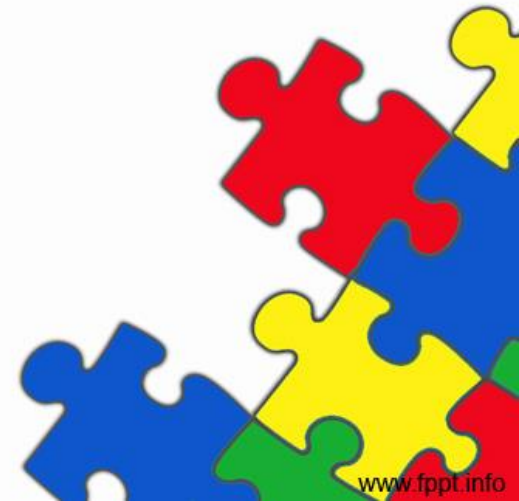


**CAMPER  
(AND STAFF)  
BEHAVIOR IS  
INFLUENCED BY A  
LOT MORE THAN  
CANCER**

**BRANDON G. BRIERY, PH.D.**  
EXECUTIVE CAMP DIRECTOR + CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER  
CLINICAL CHILD + PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGIST  
**CAMP CAMP**  
[BRANDON.BRIERY@CAMPCAMP.ORG](mailto:BRANDON.BRIERY@CAMPCAMP.ORG)

**THE BEST STAFF  
ARE THE  
PREPARED STAFF**



WE SET OUT TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD, BUT  
REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE  
DO, THE WORLD IS  
CHANGING.

- HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC IMPACTED CAMPERS AND STAFF FROM A MENTAL-EMOTIONAL-SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) PERSPECTIVE?



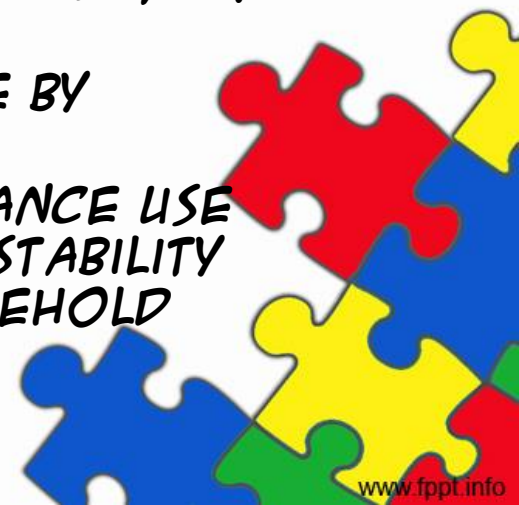
# THE PUZZLE PIECES

- THE A, B, C'S
  - ANTECEDENTS
  - BEHAVIOR
  - CONSEQUENCES
- THE STRATEGIES:
  - PROACTION
  - REDIRECTION
  - INTERVENTION
- THE KIDS:
  - MAY HAVE PROCESSING SPEED DELAYS
  - MAY HAVE ATTENTIONAL DIFFICULTIES
  - MAY HAVE MEMORY DIFFICULTIES
  - CAN BE ATTENTION SEEKERS
  - OFTEN WANT TO PLEASE



# PRECIPITATING EVENTS

- WHAT OTHER BAGGAGE TO CAMPERS (AND STAFF) COME TO CAMP WITH (THAT ISN'T WHAT'S PACKED IN THEIR SUITCASE) ?
  - OTHER DIAGNOSES
    - KNOWN AND UNKNOWN
  - ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
    - EXPERIENCING OR WITNESSING VIOLENCE, ABUSE, OR NEGLECT
    - HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER ATTEMPT OR DIE BY SUICIDE
    - GROWING UP IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH SUBSTANCE USE PROBLEMS, MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, INSTABILITY DUE TO A PARENTAL SEPARATION OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS BEING IN JAIL OR PRISON



# CAMPERS (AND STAFF) AT CAMP

- WHAT DO WE SEE ?
- WHAT DO WE THINK WE SEE ?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US?





# UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOR

- WHAT IS BEHAVIOR?
  - BEHAVIOR IS COMMUNICATION
  - COMMUNICATION TOOLBOX
- FORM VS. FUNCTION
  - COMMON FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOR:
    - TO GET/OBTAIN (E.G., AN OBJECT, AN OPPORTUNITY, ATTENTION)
    - TO ESCAPE/AVOID (E.G., A PERSON, A SITUATION, A TASK)
    - TO FULFILL A SENSORY NEED (E.G., FEELING, HEARING, SEEING, TASTING, SMELLING)

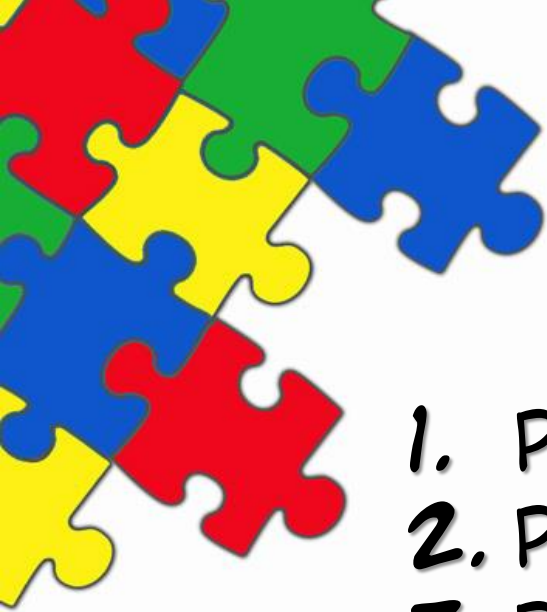




# PROACTION STRATEGIES

1. TALK WITH AND LISTEN TO YOUR CAMPERS!
2. ROLE MODEL APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS!
3. PLAY WITH YOUR CAMPERS!
4. ESTABLISH CABIN/CAMP EXPECTATIONS!
5. USE DIRECTIVES/"I NEED" STATEMENTS
6. ESTABLISH ROUTINES!
7. USE CUES!
8. KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CAMPERS ALWAYS!
9. CATCH 'EM BEING GOOD!
10. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CAMPERS
11. BE CONSISTENT!

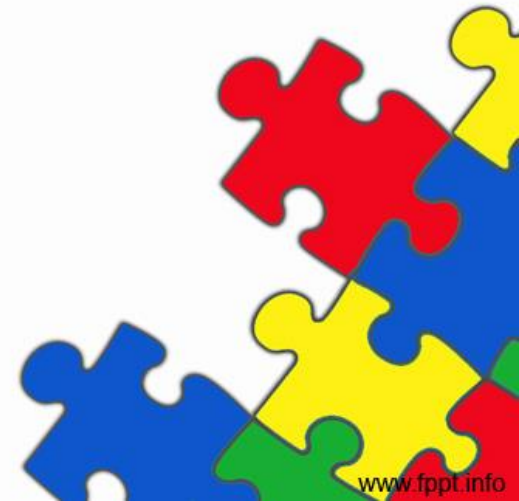




# REDIRECTION STRATEGIES

1. PLANNED IGNORING
2. PROMPTING
3. PROXIMITY CONTROL
4. HURDLE HOPPING
5. OFFER CHOICES
6. OFFER A FRIENDLY CHALLENGE
7. DISTRACTION
8. REGROUPING
9. TOLERATE SOME ANNOYING BEHAVIOR – KIDS ARE KIDS!

CAMPERS WHO  
ARE FESTIVE





# INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

1. BE DIRECTIVE – USE "I NEED" STATEMENTS
2. USE A CALM, FIRM, EMOTIONALLY NEUTRAL TONE OF VOICE – DON'T YELL
3. GIVE SHORT, SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS TELLING THE CAMPER WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO, NOT WHAT YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO DO
4. AVOID POWER STRUGGLES – BE CONSISTENT AND STAND YOUR GROUND
5. AVOID THREATS – MAKE SURE CONSEQUENCES ARE SIMPLE, REASONABLE, ENFORCEABLE, + RESPECTFUL
6. IF THE PERSON IS EMOTIONALLY OUT OF CONTROL, WAIT UNTIL THEY HAVE REGAINED CONTROL BEFORE ENGAGING THEM IN CONVERSATION – AVOID LECTURING TO THEM

# OTHER INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- THESE MAY VARY DEPENDING ON YOUR ORGANIZATION'S POLICIES – IF THESE FIT WITHIN YOUR GUIDELINES, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:
  - TIME OUTS
    - THIS IS "TIME OUT" FROM POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
  - LOSS OF PRIVILEGES
    - AVOID TAKING AWAY WHOLE ACTIVITIES, AND NEVER PUNISH SOMEONE BY REMOVING BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD, WATER, OR USE OF A DEVICE THAT AIDS MOBILITY OR COMMUNICATION



# TWO COMMON MISTAKES STAFF MAKE WHEN USING INTERVENTION STRATEGIES:

- THEY TALK TOO MUCH
- THEY ARE EMOTIONALLY CHARGED



# KIDS WHO ARE ANGRY

- DON'T TOUCH THEM
- DON'T BOX THEM IN
- DON'T MAKE DIRECT EYE CONTACT
- SIT DOWN, STEP AWAY, TAG OUT
- DON'T TALK
  - CAMPERS MUST BE IN A POSITIVE STATE OF MIND BEFORE THE REAL WORK CAN BEGIN





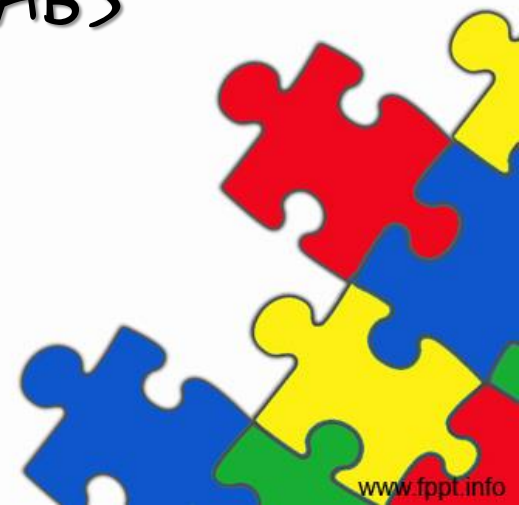
# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- ALL BEHAVIOR IS GOAL DIRECTED.
- IF THEY COULD THEY WOULD.
- IT IS A CAMPER'S JOB TO PUSH BOUNDARIES – IT'S YOUR JOB TO ENFORCE BOUNDARIES.
- YOUR RAPPORT WITH THE CAMPER AND GROUP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE IN THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CAMPERS (AND STAFF)



# PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL SAFETY

- STRIKES
  - PUNCHES
  - KICKS
- GRABS
  - 1- + 2-HANDED WRIST GRABS
  - HAIR PULLS
  - CLOTHING GRABS
  - BITES
  - CHOKES



**GIVE  
ME 5**



# QUESTIONS?

Brandon G. Briery, Ph.D.

512-630-2267 (Cell)

830-634-2267 (Camp CAMP)

[brandon.briery@campcamp.org](mailto:brandon.briery@campcamp.org)

