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Dealing with Students with

Behavioral Disorders

A laminated reference card by Judy Dewey and Cindy Jones



This card includes all the major strategies of dealing with difficult behaviors—techniques proven by research and classroom implementation.

- How to keep your cool no matter what the child may say or do.
- How to create a safe zone where you and the student can cool off and evaluate.
- How to identify those students who may be bipolar or ADHD.
- Ways to avoid getting into power games with students.
- What to do when the child threatens or carries out physical violence.
- Use well-planned responses that deflect student anger or belligerence.

Specific disorders covered on the card include:

- Bi-Polar Disorder
 - common characteristics
 - strategies
- ADHD
 - common characteristics
 - strategies
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
 - common characteristics
 - strategies

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BPE-RC-6

▶ \$12.95

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Students with serious behavioral disorders present critical challenges for classroom teachers. These students exhibit severe and socially-disruptive patterns, infringe on other students' rights, disturb the classroom and block learning.

This card presents in one, easy-to-access format, proven strategies for dealing with any student who exhibits behavioral difficulties, and offers specific interventions for some common but highly demanding disorders.

Dealing With Students With Behavioral Disorders
By Judy Dewey, M.Ed., & Cindy Jones, M.Ed.

General Strategies for all Behaviorally Challenged Students

- **Stay calm.** When students act out, it is important to remain calm. This is not an easy task, but it is essential. If you lose your cool, you are more likely to react in a way that escalates the situation.
- **Use non-verbal cues.** Eye contact, facial expressions, and body language can be powerful tools for communication.
- **Use clear, concise language.** Avoid long, complex sentences. Use simple, direct language.
- **Use positive reinforcement.** Praise students for positive behaviors.
- **Use consequences.** Consistent consequences are essential for behavior change.

Specific Behavior Challenges

Bi-Polar Disorder

- **Characteristics:** Extreme mood swings, depression, mania, psychosis.
- **Strategies:** Maintain a stable environment, avoid stressors, use medication as prescribed.

ADHD

- **Characteristics:** Inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity.
- **Strategies:** Use visual aids, provide frequent feedback, use positive reinforcement.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

- **Characteristics:** Defiance, anger, aggression.
- **Strategies:** Use non-verbal cues, avoid power struggles, use positive reinforcement.

Example of a Sample Contract	Name	Date
I will... I will... I will...		

Judy Dewey and Cindy Jones are educational consultants and are the co-authors of DayOne's "Tips and Strategies for School Bus Drivers" laminated card.

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