

The "Yes, But..." Strategy



What is it?

A strategy for providing a soft "no" when a student asks for something they cannot have in the moment.

Why does it matter?

Problem behavior may occur when you say "no".

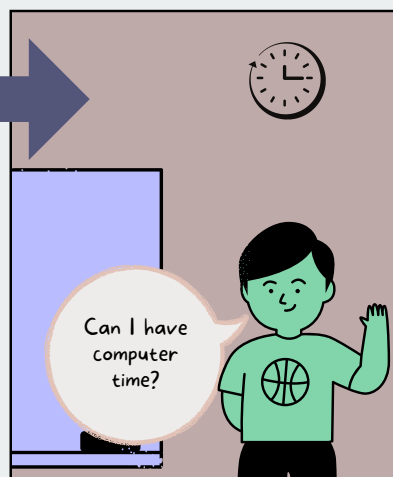
School staff may start saying "yes" to avoid or stop problem behavior.

Student will continue to engage in the problem behavior (because it works)!



Do this:

1. Be upbeat and smile
2. Tell the student when, where, and how they can get what they want
3. Use encouraging words and avoid sarcasm and lies



Tips:

- Ensure the student can understand what you say
- Use this strategy when a hard "no" results in problem behavior
- Fade use of this strategy as the student learns to accept a hard "no" more appropriately

Reference

Winston, M. (2016). Adventures in Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis. Sloan Publishing LLC, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY.