

Take five steps to address school misbehavior

It's great to have a sense of humor. But it's no laughing matter if a student constantly disrupts class with jokes and rude body sounds.

If your child is misbehaving in school, take these steps:

1. Look for what's behind the behavior. Sometimes kids need attention or want to impress their classmates. Often, they try to use humor to cover up academic shortcomings.
2. Work with the teacher. Together, try to identify when the problem behavior started and what might have triggered it. If your child tends to act up after recess, for example, he may need help settling down. The teacher might help by assigning him a high-profile task like handing out worksheets.
3. Talk to your child. He might not understand when it's OK to be silly and when it's not. Help him see there's a time when being funny and "clever" is actually being disrespectful.
4. Establish clear guidelines. With the teacher's help, convey to your child what type of behavior you both expect from him.
5. Set consequences that you and the teacher will enforce if your child breaks the rules.

By following these five steps, you and the teacher should be able to get your child's behavior back on track!

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