

BRENDAN'S CHILD AND FAMILY DESCRIPTION

At the time Positive Behavior Support was initiated, Brendan was a three-year-old boy who lived with his mother, father, and five-year-old brother. His parents were planning to enroll him in a community preschool program in about 4 months. Brendan was language delayed and only spoke in one-to-two-word phrases often repeating what others said or by echoing phrases or sounds from favorite television programs. He was recently toilet-trained and did not play with his brother although he did engage in short periods of parallel play.

Brendan's parents reported that he was very difficult to manage at home and was especially challenging in the community. They reported that Brendan was difficult to redirect and would only play with a very small repertoire of toys and activities. When a demand was placed on him, he often became aggressive and dropped to the ground, threw toys, or attacked his brother. His parents admitted that they would avoid taking Brendan out in the community because they had very negative experiences in stores and restaurants. They had even been kicked out of the library. Brendan had severe tantrums that would last up to 30 minutes; he resisted getting in the car seat and/or resisted leaving and entering places.

Brendan's parents were planning to enroll him in a community preschool program and were very concerned about "getting him ready." They both expressed that they felt that Brendan would have difficulty with transitions to and from activities and places within the preschool. They were also concerned about his lack of ability to turn-take. Both parents admitted that they were at a loss of how to help their son and were very stressed with physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion. The parents reported that they felt like prisoners in their own home and had resorted to barricading portions of their home, giving into Brendan's wants, and even spanking him on occasion.

Due to the family's concerns, the support team initiated a *Functional Assessment Interview* and recorded data on *Observation Cards*.