

# Negative Attention Seeking Young Adolescents



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# Characteristics



- They realize and know the behaviors that teachers cannot ignore; such as:
  - ✦ Blurting out
  - ✦ Making random noises
  - ✦ Distracting other students
  - ✦ Throwing things, etc.
- Misbehaviors
- Inattentive
- Shows lack of interest in content
- Does not follow directions



# Q: Why do students do this?

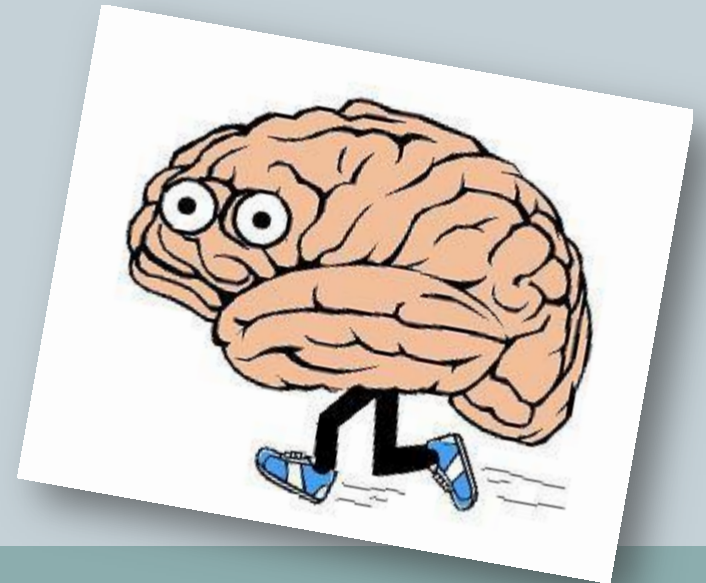


- Most will seek attention in a positive way but there are a handful of students who will seek it in a negative way.
- A child who wants attention will get it by some means.
- There are just some children who have a never satisfied desire for attention
- Many students who value teacher attention do not care if it is gained in a positive or negative manner

# What the Student Thinks...



- Cognitively the child believes: “ They do not get enough attention!”
- They seek attention in the negative manner because more than often positive behaviors are over looked
- Negative attention is better than no attention at all!
- Mindset of “I DON’T care!”



# Interesting Facts



- These students who act out in a negative way normally receive lots of attention, much more than many of the other students
- Attention seeking children come from all different backgrounds
- Often these student get caught in the 'reprimand' trap and stay there
- These students can often be referred to as difficult or challenging students



# As a Teacher...



- You can spend ample amounts of time with the student but yet it feels as though it is never enough!
- On average intervention with the student is needed every 2-3 minutes
- Be observant of the students behaviors for changes



# What we as Teachers can do...Intervene



- This is an extremely powerful tool!
- For intervention to work we as teachers must:
  - Be patient with the process
  - Be willing to try different strategies
  - And carry out the process, consistency is KEY!
- Ignore the behaviors, if possible
- Try to cut out negative attention and focus on positive attention
- The school counselor and or social worker may have to be involved past a certain point
- Approaching the child every 10 – 15 minutes

# “Special Time”



- 10 minutes everyday, if possible, or make a schedule
- Letting them do something reasonable with you one on one for about 10 minutes
- Making them aware of the starting and finishing times
- This is a time where the teacher is to observe and not teach. They are to praise the student for the positives they see.
- Soul focus should be on the student





# Random 'Positive' Attention



- Works best for breaking the 'reprimand' trap!
- Starts with ignoring the students attention-seeking behaviors
- At the same time 'randomly' giving the student positive attention
  - These are not to be connected with misbehaviors
- This way the student(s) are getting the attention they crave
- These 'random' acts of positive attention need to be sporadic and based upon the observation of good behavior

# Random 'Positive' Attention



- A pat on the shoulder
- Making eye contact with the student and smiling
- Checking in with the student on their progress on an assignment
- Call on the student in class, when confident they know the answer
- Praise or compliment
- A few simple words of encouragement
- Talking briefly with the student
- Selecting the student to help with classroom tasks, etc

# Reward system



- Select a group of rewards the student can earn for their positive behavior
- Give the student a ticket, something tangible for them to keep up with their reward

These reward can be:

- ✦ Working with a group
  - ✦ Free time
  - ✦ A book
  - ✦ Free homework pass
  - ✦ An award, etc.
- Once they have earned these rewards they can also be taken away for negative behaviors
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utnnHCv9Jik>



# Sources



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