# **Dealing with Difficult Behavior**



#### THE ISSUE

We need cooperation from children in order to accomplish our ministry objectives in their lives, but some children, more than others, aren't as cooperative. Some are inattentive; others are disruptive. Some have experienced trauma that has forever changed how they experience the world around them and their view of themselves. What's more, the cultural views of discipline and children have shifted. There is a lack of a coherent, understanding of children and socially-accepted parenting/teaching strategies that transcend social-economic and geographic boundaries. How do we help all our children experience their time with us as safe and effectively teach them?

#### THE NEED

To accurately see children and their needs that underlie disruptive or inattentive behavior. To utilize strategies that meet their needs, result in the child feeling safe and changed behavior.

### HOW A CHILD EXPERIENCES FEAR AND PAIN

Externalizing Behaviors (Acting Out) Internalizing Behaviors (Acting In)

Irritability Dissociation
Antisocial Behavior Withdrawal
Anger Crying
Rage Sadness
Aggression Lethargy
Depression

THE HOW

<u>Empowering Principles</u> <u>Ecological Strategies</u> <u>Physiological Strategies</u>

Felt Safety Safe Touch

Predictability Sensory Input/Physical Activity

Transitions Hydration
Nutrition

<u>Connecting Principles</u> <u>Mindful Strategies</u> <u>Engagement Strategies</u>

Observing Matching

Recognizing Behavior

Eye Contact

Body Position

Active Listening

Nurturing Interaction

Playful Engagement

Voice and Inflection Encourage Process

Correcting Principles Proactive Strategies Responsive Strategies

Emotional Regulation Choices for Discipline

Encourage the Positive Redos

Life Value Terms
Choices for Growth
The Voice
The Stance
Task Completion

## **RESOURCES**

- ❖ The Connected Child by Drs. Karyn Purvis and David Cross
- Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms BY CASEY CALL, PH.D., KARYN PURVIS, PH.D., SHERI R. PARRIS, PH.D., & DAVID CROSS, PH.D.