

NAME CALLING, SWEARING AND INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

Definition:

Saying things, swearing and/or name calling to an extreme that doesn't fit the situation.

Behavior:

Why could this be happening?

- A child receives a reaction from adults or other children which he/she finds reinforcing.
- A child has not been taught which words are inappropriate.
- A child is around others that use swearing as a "normal" part of conversation.

Typical Development:

- All children test the limits of adults by trying out new words occasionally.
- Most children do not know the meaning of swear words.
- Children will repeat words that get a big reaction from adults.

When to be Concerned:

- If swearing is uncomfortable.
- If swearing is like a vocal tic (repetitive-like grunt, yelps, etc...).
- If swearing does not decrease following corrective intervention.

Possible Resources:

Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Family Education, preschool or child care