

Issue: Threatening Behavior and Asperger Syndrome

Situation: Students with ASD making or talking about bombs threats after there was one at their school.

Possible Problems associated with ASD:

- students with ASD do not understand people (their actions or reactions)
- scary human behavior can be very scary for students with ASD
- ignoring their behavior may escalate it or make it more perseverative over time
- language based processing may not be fully processed or understood

How to teach:

1. **Social Stories** about the bomb situation, their reactions, the teachers and principals reactions, the other student reactions.
2. Use of a **worry box**: put worries in the box. Teacher reads and chats about issue with student using a Social Autopsy form
3. **Social Autopsy:**

What happened?

What were you thinking?

What were the others thinking?

What was the outcome or the consequences?

What could have been done differently?

How would that have changed how people think?

4. **Never Ever Rules:** Rules where we can not compromise because the consequences are just too great. These may include situations that involve social judgment. You can use the basket analogy: Basket A – Never ever rules, Basket B – Things we can compromise on, Basket C – Things that are not a problem.

Basket A might include bomb threats, physically hurting another person, jumping off the roof of the school

Basket B might include being late for class, eating in the classroom instead of the cafeteria, tearing up an assignment

Basket C might include sitting in a different seat, not going to an assembly, using the bathroom when you need to

5. **Student Interviews** can be used after situations that cause everyone great concern such as bomb threats, Columbine, etc.

When I called in a bomb threat, I was thinking:

- a. this will be funny
- b. I wonder what will happen?
- c. I really plan to bomb the school
- d. something else _____

The school rule is that any student who calls in a threat of any kind will be suspended. The law of this district is that anyone who calls in a threat or makes a threat of any kind can be arrested. This is because:

- a. the system is unfair
- b. if you call in a threat you will probably do it
- c. the principal and the police have no way of knowing who is serious and it is their job to protect everybody so they must take all threats seriously even if they don't think the person is really dangerous

6. **The 5-Point Scale**

5 = Totally crosses the line. This behavior can not be tolerated in society or chaos will commence

4 = This behavior can get you into trouble. It can cause problems for you in school and may mean you need to work in the resource room.

3 = This behavior might make other people angry. Other people may not want to be around you if you do this because it makes them feel uncomfortable or upset.

2 = This behavior is just a little odd. Some people might stare at me if I do this but it probably doesn't make people feel too uncomfortable and it won't get me into trouble.

1 = Perfectly fine. No problemo. All is well. Terrifico. Smiley behavior ☺