

Case Study for Tim

Tim is a 4-year old boy who lives with his mother and father. He is the only child. He is a new child at a community preschool program where he attends five mornings a week. This is his first preschool experience. He is very smart, loves books, and engages well with adults.

Tim's parents report that he is very difficult to manage at home and in the community. They describe Tim as being "very rigid" about what he wants to do and difficult to redirect during less structured activities. When pushed to comply, he often becomes aggressive and hits his parents or throws toys.

Tim's preschool teacher visited him at home to welcome him to his new preschool. She was distressed to observe that Tim seems to be "in charge." He insists on playing with his toys past his bedtime. His preschool teacher noticed that he becomes very angry and aggressive if his mother ignores a request he makes, or takes a preferred toy or activity away from him. Tim's parents have tried many strategies to change his behavior, but they are frustrated.

At his preschool, Tim is aggressive and makes verbal threats. He destroys other children's products and damages toys. His behaviors are most likely to happen during centers (e.g., playing with blocks, trains, housekeeping) and the playground (e.g., riding bikes) when interacting with other children his age. He has a significant risk of preschool expulsion.