## **Documenting Behaviors**

An important part of teaching in an early childhood classroom is observing and documenting children's behavior. Sometimes, the underlying cause of a child's behavior is obvious but usually it requires careful observation from a teacher and detailed documentation of the behavior to determine what the child is trying to communicate through his or her challenging behavior. When trying to determine the cause of a challenging behavior it can be helpful to document when the behavior occurred, where the behavior occurred, what happened before the behavior and what happened after the behavior. An example is provided in the chart below.

When did the behavior occur?	Where did the behavior occur?	What happened before the behavior?	What behavior occurred?	What happened after/as a result of the behavior?
8:53am	Dramatic Play Area	Tori was filling plastic bowls with toy food, opening the dramatic play refrigerator and placing the bowls inside. Steven approached to use the refrigerator.	Tori bit Steven on the left wrist	A teacher said "No biting" and removed Tori from the dramatic play space. Tori was asked to get and ice pack for Steven.