SWIS Motivation Guidelines

Obtaining Adult Attention
◇ Do you find yourself often needing to redirect the student?
◇ Does problem behavior often seem to occur when you are working with others?
◇ Do you need to provide one-on-one assistance to get the student back on-task?
◇ Do problem behaviors occur when you have stopped interacting with the student?
◇ If a student stops a behavior but then repeats it, they likely want adult attention.
◇ You find that you are most often annoyed by the behavior.

Common attention seeking behaviors:
- Quarrel with peers.
- Tell wild tales
- Can really “make an entrance”
- Throw things/tantrums
- Make excessive noises
- Talk excessively
- Fretful; whines and pouts
- Works only when teacher is near
- Tattles
- Frequently leaves seat
- Use baby talk or clowns around
- Asks irrelevant questions

Obtaining Peer Attention
◇ When the behavior occurs, does the class verbally respond / laugh at the student?
◇ Does the behavior usually happen when peers are around to witness it?
◇ Does the behavior stop when peers are not paying attention to the student?

Obtaining Items/Activities Attention
◇ Does the behavior give the student access to a preferred activity / situation?
◇ Does the behavior occur when the student is denied something or disciplined?
◇ Does the behavior stop after giving the student what they wanted or asked for?
Avoiding Adults
◊ Does the problem behavior occur more with one adult and not another?
◊ Does the student attempt to physically put space between you and him or her?

Avoiding Peers
◊ During conflict, do peers leave the student alone if (s)he engages in the behavior?
◊ Do the problem behaviors stop when peers leave the student alone?

Avoiding Tasks/Activities
◊ Does the behavior typically occur and persist when you make a request?
◊ Does the problem behavior happen only in certain academic activities?
◊ Will the student stop the behavior if you stop making requests of them?
◊ Will the behavior stop at the end of an academic activity?

Common avoiding behaviors:
☑ Say they are ‘dumb’ ☑ Withdraw ☑ Often say, “I can’t do it”
☑ Won’t try ☑ Give up easily ☑ Cry
☑ Act fearful or panicky ☑ Claim illness ☑ Cling to adults
☑ Act helpless ☑ Not work unless teacher is close ☑ Be poor achievers