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Case Study Excerpt

Jessica, a fifth grader, slapped another student in the face while waiting in the lunch line. Jessica was swiftly escorted to Principal [Casey] Hiller.

"We don't touch, hit, or hurt other students at this school . . . for any reason," Casey said sternly. Though she tried to explain what happened, Jessica was cut off.

When Jessica's father arrived, Casey explained that his daughter was being suspended for the rest of the school day and all the next day.

"We cannot tolerate this type of behavior regardless of what was said." Casey's tone was firm.

Jessica's father found the punishment to be harsh and asked if the full day of suspension the next day could be negotiated. Casey cited school board policy and the district discipline policy. "I'm sorry," she said to Jessica's father, "but that is the policy." Fearing the effect this suspension would have on his daughter and feeling Casey was unwilling to listen to the source of the problem, he made his way to the superintendent's office.

Stop and Reflect

- *What do you think about the situation and conversation between Casey and Jessica's father? Consider what you might say or do differently.*

It is at this point that you can either make a few notes or take a moment to reflect. This reflection adds dimension to your understanding of family engagement, disengagement, and the practices that are presently in place.

Application of Ideas

Your Turn

Consider the case study you just read and think of a similar situation that you and/or your colleagues may have experienced in your school, district, or community.

Briefly describe the experience/situation:

How did the situation resolve itself? What did you do?

Reference and review the appropriate principle information. For more detailed information, see the corresponding chapter in *Engage Every Family* (Constantino, 2021). Once completed, reflect on your original actions and steps. What changes will you make should an issue like this arise again?

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