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Hello Everyone!

How often have you sat down at the end of a long day, only to realize that you spent the majority of your time putting out fires? (Problem behavior fires, staff management fires, missing assignment fires, peer conflict fires) Sometimes we become so accustomed to our role as a fire fighter that we are not even aware it is occurring. We leave each day feeling exhausted with only a fragile hope that tomorrow will be better. Fire fighters are brave and heroic. However, even the most heroic, if given a choice, would surely choose to prevent the fire instead of extinguishing it.

Proactive educators plan for fires. They also accept responsibility for finding long-term solutions to the prevention of a problem rather than creating short-term compliance. Most of us have found ourselves lacking in the virtue of “proactivity” on more than one occasion. Fortunately, it is never too late to start! You will always spend time dealing with problems. The question to ask is “when do I choose to spend that time?”, “Do I choose to invest the majority of my time in planning to prevent the problem or in battling the problem as it occurs?” This month’s featured article provides helpful ideas for developing proactive programming. Take a look at: [Proactive Strategies for Addressing Problem Behaviors for Individuals with ASD](#) by Lori Ernsperger, Ph.D., BCBA-D

You can read Dr. Ernsperger’s article online at  
[http://www.autismtoday.com/articles/Developing\\_Proactive\\_Strategies.asp](http://www.autismtoday.com/articles/Developing_Proactive_Strategies.asp)

Happy reading and safe travels!  
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