What Do I Say Now: Toileting and Diapering

Read the following scenario and answer the questions.

You walk into Rose's toddler room and hear a number of children crying. Rose is in the restroom area with Joaquin. You notice he is sitting on the toilet and screaming. Tears are running down his face. Rose is kneeling near him. You hear her say, "When you go pee-pee like a big boy, you can get up."

1) What did Rose do wrong?

2) What effect do you think Rose's behavior might have on the child's emotional development? What effects do you think Rose's behavior might have on the child's physical development or toilet training?

3) What should Rose have done?

4) Write exactly what you would say to Rose if you saw this happen in a classroom:

Dawn works in your school-age program. Trixie is a five-year-old who just transitioned into the program. The restroom is always accessible to children in the program, and they do not need to ask permission to go. Trixie does not understand this yet, and always asks Dawn's permission before going to the restroom. Today Dawn has been very busy helping other children. When Trixie tapped Dawn's shoulder, she said "Not now." A few minutes later, she noticed a puddle on the floor and saw Trixie crying. Her pants were wet and she said she had an accident.

1) Why do you think Trixie asks permission to use the restroom?

2) What should Dawn do right away to help Trixie after her accident?

3) What might you say to Dawn to help her promote Trixie's independence?