



MODULE 7

REINFORCEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

JARGON DICTIONARY



CONSEQUENCE: CHANGE IN THE ENVIRONMENT FOLLOWING A BEHAVIOR

BEHAVIOR: ANYTHING A PERSON DOES INTERACTING WITH THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

PREFERENCE ASSESSMENTS

WHAT IS REINFORCEMENT?

A consequence that increases the future occurrence of similar behaviors in similar contexts

CONSIDERATIONS

Identify target behaviors

Identify a student's reinforcers

Consider the parameters of reinforcement

Monitor for changes in behavior

Ask	Free-Operant	Trial-Based
Ask the individual, ask people in their life, give a pre-task choice	Contrive observations, naturalistic observation	Single stimuli, paired stimuli, multiple stimuli

MEASURING PREFERENCE

- **Duration:** record how much time the student engages with the items
- **Hierarchy:** record when an item was selected relative to other items
- **Frequency:** record how many times a student approaches/plays with the item

APPLYING REINFORCEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

ESTABLISHING YOURSELF AS A REINFORCER

TIPS FOR PAIRING

- Avoid placing demands while pairing (remember: even questions can be demands!)
- Comment about what the student is doing
- Imitate or join in with what the student is doing
- Maintain a preferred affect (some kids love high affect!)
- Get on their level
- Follow the child's lead
- Add to the environment (expand on what they're motivated by)
- Access to preferred activities and items (environmental enrichment)

GROUP CONTINGENCIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Independent	Contingent on each individual's behavior
Inter-dependent	Contingent on the behavior of the group
Dependent	Contingent on the behavior of one or some members of the group

FISHER, W. W., PIAZZA, C. C., & ROANE, H. S. (2021). HANDBOOK OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS, SECOND EDITION. GUILFORD PUBLICATIONS.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Response effort
- Ratio strain
- Preference of the class
- Changing preferences
- Possible peer pressuring from dependent group contingency (can mitigate this by randomizing selected student or by using a different contingency)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Information gathered from Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). Applied Behavior Analysis. Pearson Education.



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