

# Implementing Token Charts



PROJECT ACCESS

## DEFINITION

Token charts are one of many ways to visually represent positive reinforcement in the classroom, home, or clinical setting!

## PURPOSE

The purpose of a token chart is to SHOW our students WHAT they are earning, HOW they are earning it, and HOW much longer until they have earned it.

## TEACH THE LEARNER

As with all classroom strategies and procedures, we have to teach our learners what a token chart means and how to earn things using the token chart! At first they may not understand the value of the token chart or how this is helping them! We have to teach this strategy to them!

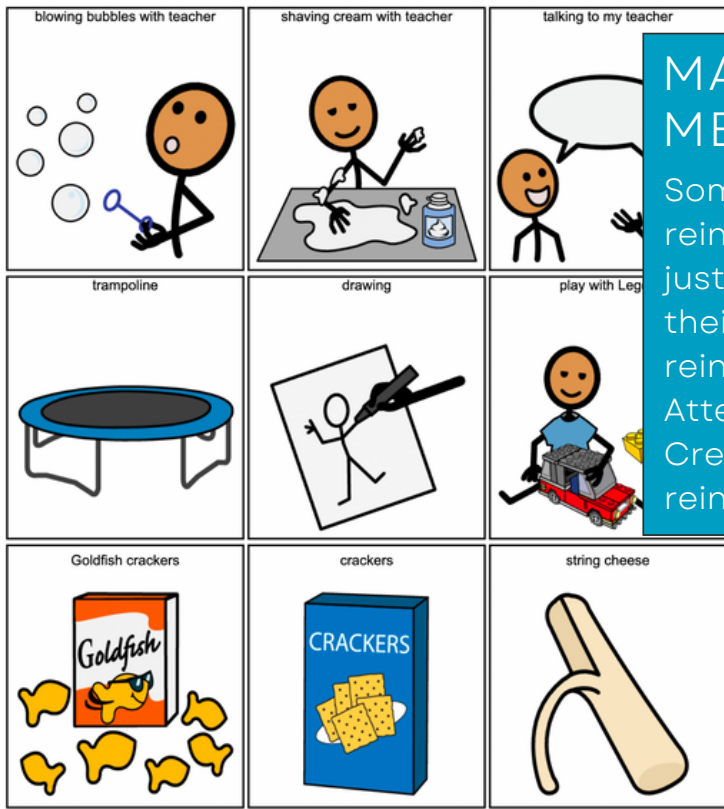
1. Let the student choose what they want to earn using a choice board with visuals.
2. Notice and provide genuine and behavior specific praise students for the good behavior! "Thank you for keeping your hands to your self, you get a token!" (start with every 1-3 minutes, this can be faded later on)
3. Do not comment on inappropriate behavior. Just focus on noticing the good things!
4. Once the token board is filled (5-10 minutes later), give them whatever they chose before hand.
5. Use during break times, lunch time, recess, and work!
6. Use for good behaviors, not just task completion!



## BENEFITS

1. Increases motivation
2. Increases predictability
3. Acts as a visual prompt for students to see what they are earning to increase motivation
4. Acts as a visual reminder to the adults to provide praise and reinforcement while working with the child.





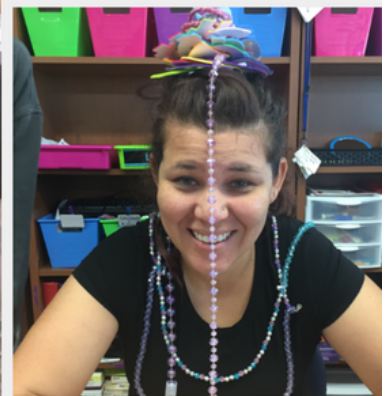
## MAKE THE REINFORCER MEANINGFUL!

Some of our students may have some interesting reinforcers and want more for completing work than just an iPad or a skittle. Think about the function of their inappropriate behavior and use that as a reinforcers when they are having good behaviors. Attention, escape from work, sensory activities? Create a choice board that has different types of reinforcers!



## PAIR YOURSELF!

Break time is the perfect opportunity to pair yourself in a positive way and build a relationship with your students! Instead of allowing them to go play by themselves, play beside them, or with them if they will let you! Ask if you can join them and make sure not to give any demands during this time! Remember, this is their break, you're just joining them! MAKE IT FUN!



## COMMON MISTAKES AND HOW TO FIX THEM

- Taking away tokens: This can cause a snowball effect of out of control negative behaviors. Instead, provide one reminder of how the student can earn a token to INCREASE the positive behaviors you want to see instead of pointing out the negative behaviors.
- Making tokens contingent on work completion: When we only allow our students to earn tokens when they complete work, we can miss prime opportunities to reinforce good behaviors (hands to self, starting work, following directions, using manners, helping a friend, etc). Start noticing each time your student does something good and give a token and behavior specific praise!
- Student not interested in token board/token board "not working": Make sure you have a strong reinforcer they are working for and make sure to provide tokens frequently (like every few minutes!) Create custom token boards for your student!