Reinforcement

Reinforcement is something we do after a child’s behavior that helps the child to use the behavior again.

For example, if the child does what you ask him to do, and you praise him, he will be more likely to do what you ask the next time you ask him to do something.

Or if a child complains about doing a task, and you allow her to escape the task, she will be more likely to complain the next time you ask her to do a task.

So we use reinforcement when we want to see the behavior, and we don’t use it when we want to see the behavior again.

Praise

Frequently can be a very effective form of reinforcement.

For it to be most effective, the praise must come from someone who has a relationship with the child.
The __________ the positive relationship, the __________ effective the praise will be.

Praise has distinct advantages.

• It is a __________ form of reinforcement.

• If used properly, the child will know exactly what was done ________________.

• It strengthens the ______________ between the person giving the praise and the one receiving it.

• It’s real ________________!

• You always ________________ it in your “back pocket”.

**Always Use Praise**
Whenever possible, use praise as your __________ reinforcement.

If you use other reinforcement, praise should ________________ that reinforcement.

Pairing praise with other reinforcement will make praise
stronger so that, at a later time, you might be able to _____________ the reinforcement to praise only.

What Praise Should Sound Like
Praise should be _________________.

Praise should be _________________.

This means that the child should know exactly what he did right.

For example, instead of saying, “Good job,” you should say, “I like how you cleaned off the table. There isn’t even a smudge on it!”

Catch The Kid Being Good!
Attention is such a ________________ motivator that…

You get what you pay ________________ to.

For that reason, you need to pay a _____________ of attention to the good behavior.

To do this, keep an eye on the child and _____________ her being good. Then praise her.
Another variation of catching a kid being good is called the ___________________________ Jar.

When you catch the kid being good, you ________________ her and _____________ a marble in a marble jar. When the marble jar gets full, something nice happens, like everyone gets everyone gets to play a special game.

The Marble Jar will not work if the kids ________________ gets a lot of the reward that is being offered. For example, a special game probably will not work if everyone already gets to play that game a lot.

Generally speaking, the marbles for all of the kids should go together in _____________ jar.

This will help to encourage _________________ and a sense of working together.

**Withholding Reinforcement**

Completely _________________ reinforcement for a previously reinforced behavior is called extinction.

You will see an _________________ in the behavior when you first withhold reinforcement. This is called an extinction burst.
If you are consistent in not providing reinforcement, the behavior will finally _________________.

How Can We Use This Information About Extinction Bursts?
When we are in an extinction burst, we can comfort ourselves with the knowledge that the behavior will decrease if we ________________ to our guns and don’t reinforce the behavior again.

Important Note
If you anticipate that an extinction burst might turn into behavior that could ________________ someone, including the person using the behavior, get guidance from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) first.

Intermittent Reinforcement
Intermittent reinforcement is providing reinforcement for the behavior ________________ some of the time.

Intermittent reinforcement makes a behavior more ________________ or longer lasting.

We ________________ appropriate behaviors to become durable.

For example, we would want a child to continue to use
safe street crossing skills, even if she doesn’t receive praise every time she uses them.

We _______ want problem behaviors to become durable.

For example, we don’t want a child to continue to use hitting to get what he wants.

How Can We Use This Information About Intermittent Reinforcement?
We can use it to motivate us to be __________________________ and not “give in” occasionally.

An Extinction Burst Is The Wrong Time To Reinforce.
If we give in during an extinction burst, we have taught the child _______________ things.

First, we have taught the child to ________________ if he doesn’t get his way.

Second, we have taught him keep trying because the behavior works ___________________. This is because we have used intermittent reinforcement and have made the behavior more durable.