



Rewards Don't Work!

Action Planning Tool

Factors of Reinforcement

Factor	Adult Examples	Notes
Immediacy		
Frequency		
Size/Amount		
Contingency		
Variety		
Choice		



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Action Planning Tool

Promoting Buy-In and Responding to Resistance

Approach	Notes	My Action Step(s)	When?
Establishing Buy-In with Effective Language			
Choice in Interventions (Anderson & Daly ,2013)			
Coping Planning (Sanetti et al., 2015)			
Responses to Resistance			

Reinforcement Reflection Case Study Activity #1

Jerome is a 5th grade student who often forgets to do his homework. His teacher has developed a reinforcement system for Jerome in order to increase his homework completion. Every time Jerome completes all of his homework, his teacher gives him a “Good Job” sticker on each completed paper. Sometimes, Jerome’s teacher checks his homework and gives him a Reese’s first thing in the morning. Sometimes, Jerome’s teacher doesn’t give him a Reese’s until the end of the day. Initially, Jerome appeared to be motivated by receiving the Reese’s and completed his homework for 3 nights in a row. Over time, Jerome’s homework completion has decreased to pre-intervention levels. When Jerome’s teacher asks him, “Don’t you want to earn your Reese’s?” Jerome replies, “Nah, I don’t need any more of the same old Reese’s.”

Did the team’s reinforcement match the function of Jerome’s behavior? Explain.

Rank the top 3 reinforcement factors that you would consider for enhancement, along with a brief explanation of the change you might suggest to the team.

Rank:	Factor	What change would you consider? Why?
1	Immediacy	
2	Frequency	
3	Size/Amount	
4	Contingency	
5	Variety/Choice	

With these 3 top factors identified, explain how you might proceed to determine *the most appropriate changes* to make in Jerome’s plan.

Presented by Christopher Barclay, PhD, BCBA, NCSP and Erin Crosby, MA, BCBA at the 15th Annual New England Positive Behavior Support Forum

Reinforcement Reflection Case Study #2

Carter is a 3rd grade student at Sunshine Elementary School. Carter’s Student Support Team (SST) reports that when given an academic demand, Carter has been aggressive towards staff and peers on average 3 times per day in order to obtain adult attention. Carter’s behavior support plan involves the team providing him with positive, non-contingent adult attention throughout the day and pre-corrections at the beginning of independent activities (e.g., “Remember to raise your hand if you want help”). Carter’s plan also includes a 5-minute break with the school counselor at the end of the day if he has had a “safe body” (e.g., zero incidents of aggression all day). While implementing the plan with fidelity, the team reports that Carter continues to be aggressive 3 times per day.

Did the team’s reinforcement match the function of Carter’s behavior? Explain.

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Rank the top 3 reinforcement factors that you would consider for enhancement, along with a brief explanation of the change you might suggest to the team.

Rank:	Factor	What change would you consider? Why?
1	Immediacy	
2	Frequency	
3	Size/Amount	
4	Contingency	
5	Variety/Choice	

With these 3 top factors identified, explain how you might proceed to determine *the most appropriate change* to make in Carter’s plan.

Reinforcement Reflection Case Study #3

Alexa is a 14-year-old high school student who struggles with using appropriate language at school. Alexa is a 14-year-old high school student who frequently uses inappropriate language when talking with peers during class, in order to obtain peer attention. In order to increase her use of appropriate language, Alexa's teacher created a point sheet which Alexa brings with her to each class. At the end of each class, the teacher rates her use of appropriate language using the following scale: 0 =None of the time, 1=Half of the time, 2= Entire time. Alexa's points are added up each day and written in a special place on the teacher's desk. If Alexa earns 80% of possible points by the end of the month, she gets to have extra 30 minutes of game time on the last Friday of the month. Since beginning this reinforcement system, Alexa has yet to earn her extra game time, and often does not earn 80% of possible points for the day.

Did the team's reinforcement match the function of Alexa's behavior? Explain.

Rank the top 3 reinforcement factors that you would consider for enhancement, along with a brief explanation of the change you might suggest to the team.

Rank:	Factor	What change would you consider? Why?
	Immediacy	
	Frequency	
	Size/Amount	
	Contingency	
	Variety/Choice	

With these 3 top factors identified, explain how you might proceed to determine *the most appropriate change* to make in Alexa's plan.