Welcome to Lunch and Learn: A Family’s Guide to Reinforcement

While we wait to begin, put a stamp (using the annotation feature) on your answer, or type a number into the chat box:

On a Scale of Cat, how are you doing today?
Agenda

- Preferences activity
- Why and How of Reinforcement
- How to determine what’s reinforcing?
- Q & A
- Resource share
Would You Rather...

Eat White Chocolate

Eat Dark Chocolate
Would you rather...?

Get a hug

Get a compliment
Would you rather...

Go for a jog

Go to see a movie
Reinforcement is Everywhere and for Everyone
The ABCs of Reinforcement

Antecedent: What is the stimulus that immediately precedes a behavior or response?

Behavior: What does the child do?

Consequence: What happens immediately after the behavior or response?
Reinforcement is a consequence that increases the likelihood that the behavior will occur again in the future.
Is This Reinforcement?

Dad tells Kahlil, “Put your coat on.” Kahlil puts his coat on and his dad takes him for a walk to the park. Kahlil puts his coat on everytime his dad tells him to, from now on. Is this an example of reinforcement for the behavior of Kahlil putting his coat on?

A  Kahlil is told to put on his coat.
B  Kahlil puts on his coat.
C  Dad takes Kahlil on a walk to the park.

In the future, Kahlil always puts his coat on when his dad tells him to.
Is This Reinforcement?

Grandma says “Come here, Hope!” Hope walks over to Grandma. Grandma smiles and tickles Hope. The next 5 times Grandma tells hope to “Come here.” Hope does not walk over to Grandma. Is this an example of reinforcement for the behavior of walking over to Grandma?

A. Hope is told to “come here”.
B. Hope walks over to Grandma.
C. Grandma smiles and tickles Hope.

In the future, Hope does not walk over to Grandma when told “Come here.”
Is This Reinforcement?

Brandy is asked to get in the car to go to the grocery store. Brandy falls to the floor crying and her mom says, “OK I will go by myself and you can stay with Dad.” Brandy always falls to the floor and cries when she is asked to get in the car. Is this reinforcement for behavior of falling to the floor and crying?

A  Brandy is told to get in the car.

B  Brandy falls to the floor and cries.

C  Mom says she can stay home.

In the future, Brandy always falls to the floor and cries when asked to get in the car.
Reflect on Reinforcement in Your Week
Become the Keeper of Good Things
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Reinforcement Must Be Contingent
When and how of reinforcement

- Immediately after the desired behavior occurs
- Easier to make the association between new behavior and access to reinforcement
- Avoid accidentally or unintentional reinforcement
Toddler crying for mom
Types of reinforcement
Bonus Question: Which of these are types of reinforcement? Pick all that apply

A. EDIBLES/FOOD
B. ACTIVITY
C. ITEM
D. ATTENTION
E. None of the above
Types of Reinforcement

- **EDIBLE**  food or drink
- **ACTIVITY**  games, sports, walking dog...
- **ITEM/TANGIBLE**  new toy, access to toy, pokemon card...
- **ATTENTION**  praise, high five, smile, proximity, spending time with...

*CHECK OUT THE LIST!*
Reinforcement has to match effort
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How to determine preferences?
What is a preference assessment?

Variety of procedures used to determine:

- Preferred toys, food/potential reinforcers
- Which ones they like best
- Conditions under which preferences may change

(Cooper, Heron & Heward, 2007)
Preference Assessment Types

Free Operant

Single Stimulus
Identify Preferred Items

Create a list of preferred items

Items can be any type

- Edible
- Preferred activities
- Tangible rewards (stickers, pencils)
- Social interactions
- Escape or avoidance of non-preferred tasks
Make a Plan!

- How will you present the items?
- How long will the child have access?
- What is Plan B if the student doesn’t make a choice?
- Other Considerations?

- Does the child have problem behavior when items are restricted?
Free Operant Assessment

- Free Operant (Roane et al., 1998)
  - All items available simultaneously
    - Parent left area vs parent in area
    - 5 minutes in length
    - No removal of items
Video of Free Operant

Free Operant Assessment- Vanderbilt University
Single Stimulus Preference Assessment

- Select an array of items
- Keep items out of reach and out of sight
- Introduce one item at a time to see if child is interested
- If interested, allow access for certain amount of time (30 seconds-1 min, set timer)
Single Stimulus Preference Assessment
Questions and Answers
Resources

A Family's Guide to Reinforcement

ODU T/TAC

https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/parents.cfm

VCU Autism Center for Excellence- section for Parents

Youtube.com - a great source to see how preference assessments are performed