



The Concept...

- This is a behavior system designed to assist children in monitoring their OWN behaviors and in making appropriate choices...
- Staff supports this principle by withholding reinforcement (different from ignoring) for problem behavior and reinforcing appropriate behavior...

The System...

- Come up with a simple set of classroom rules – 3 or 4 are best for pre-schoolers.
- Review the rules at arrival or circle time/morning meeting.
- Review the rules FREQUENTLY during the day, especially as you begin using this system.

The System continued...

- As your day goes on look for children who are following the rules.
- Call attention to them...
- Then reinforce them – Reinforcers can be as simple as a High-5 or a hug or you can use stickers, stamps, Goldfish crackers, etc. Whatever works for your children!

IMPORTANT!!!

- You must reinforce your students:
 - SIMPLY (this system can't be hard for you or you won't do it)
 - ARBITRARILY (your students must never know when a reinforcer might be coming; it has to be a surprise and not predictable)
 - FREQUENTLY (you must do this very often in the beginning if you expect your students to get excited about it and willingly participate)

Details...

- You must know your students and what motivates them.
- Providing reinforcers no one likes will not work.
- Ask parents, area businesses owners, state and local elected officials for donations to use as reinforcers.
- Be careful of allergies if using food as reinforcement.

Non-Compliant Children

- Beware of children who follow your rules on their terms.
- Look out for the child who complies at the last minute only to get the reinforcer.
- Non-compliant children do not get reinforcement until they follow the rules on your terms.
- This is not a form of punishment since it's their choice and they will have another opportunity soon.

Support...

- Focusing on the children who ARE following the rules is harder than it looks!
- We are trained and used to focusing on the children who are NOT following the rules.
- Talk regularly with each member of your staff & support each other.
- Come up with a buzz word that will remind each of you to focus on the rule followers – NOT the rule breakers.

Talk About It...

- It may not be fair to assume the children in your classroom know what you expect.
- Talk to them constantly about the behaviors you see and like.
- Describe those behaviors and use positive language.
- Talk also about the behaviors you don't like and hope not to see again.

Negatives...

- Avoid using the word "No" and other negatives like "never, don't", etc.
- Negatives are hard for preschoolers to process.
- This is even more true of preschoolers with developmental delays.
- "Stop that!"

Key Principles...

- There is a difference between positive and negative attention.
- Withhold attention for problem behavior!
- Reinforce appropriate behavior!
- Most children want positive attention.
- Some children don't care if they get positive or negative attention.
- There are a few children who would rather have negative attention.

Problem Solving...

- Safety concerns...
- Non-compliant children...
- The child who becomes embarrassed...
- Non-preferred reinforcers...
- Reinforcement in real life...
- Talking to families about your system...
- Fairness...?
- Families who don't agree...
- Punishment...