

INTERVENTIONS FOR BEHAVIOR
Positive Reinforcement / Recognition

Purpose:

To maintain existing behavior and improve the likelihood of behavior recurring independently.

Description:

Positive reinforcement of the cooperative, positive, or desirable student behavior which a student is currently exhibiting or has already demonstrated.

Materials:

No specific materials necessary.

Procedure/Steps:

Connect the student's positive choice to positive outcomes.

Step 1: Describe the positive behavior: *"You put the science materials away."*

Step 2: Connect the behavior to the positive outcome to the student: *"Now you can go out for recess."*

Note: Outcome (step 2) must be need-fulfilling for the student. Experiencing the privilege or positive outcome as a result of their cooperation strengthens (reinforces) the students' cooperative behavior. (If no boundary was used – or necessary – to elicit the cooperation, you can still reinforce the behavior by connecting it to a positive outcome. This actions helps your students make the connection between the choices they have made and the positive outcomes of those choices).

Caution: Avoid praise that connects the student's worth to his or her choice or those that reinforce people-pleasing: "I like the way...", "You're so good when...", or "You make me happy when..." Focus on the student's behavior and how the cooperative choice benefits the student – not the teacher: "When you write more slowly, your work is so neat and you get a better spelling grade."

Evaluation of Effectiveness:

Comparison of student behavior before and after implementation.

Sources:

<http://www.janebluestein.com/handouts/strategies.html>