

Applying The Procedure To Decreasing Yelling In The Classroom

Step 1: Find out what the child wants to work for

Teacher: What kind of snack do you want?

Student: I want potato chips

Step 2: Explain the rules

Teacher: Ok. You can have two big pieces of potato chip if you follow the rule and do not yell

Student: Ok

Teacher: What is the rule?

Student: Don't yell

Teacher: Correct

Step 3: Decide how long the child has to wait before receiving the reinforcer

(Based on the child's past behavior [yells 5 times per hour], we will set the timer for 5 minutes

Teacher: If you don't yell, then when the timer rings, you can have the potato chips

Student: OK

Step 4: Start the timer

Teacher: I am starting the timer now

Step 5: Praise the child during the time period

(We will give positive feedback every 30 seconds. Once he becomes more successful at earning the reinforcers, we will increase the amount of time before giving him a positive feedback; for example, from 30 seconds to 50 seconds. The positive feedback is in the form of: verbal praise or a thumbs up gesture or ask the child about the status of the target behavior)

Teacher: Good job not yelling

Step 6: Give the consequence: either give the reinforcer or reset the timer.

(timer rings)

Teacher: Great job following the rule. You did not yell. Here is your potato chip