

Applying The Procedure To Decreasing Yelling In The Classroom - Not Successful

The target behavior to decrease is 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.

(after two minutes, child starts yelling)

You're yelling. No potato chips. Let's try again.

Teacher: * Shows the potato chips to remind him what he is working for then start the timer immediately. Resetting the timer quickly will often stop the yelling from escalating because by resetting it, he has another chance to earn the reinforcer.

(timer rings)

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

* If you have to reset the timer three consecutive times, decrease the total time he has to wait for the reinforcer (potato chips); for example, if he had to wait 5 minutes before receiving the reinforcer, decrease it to 3.5 minutes before you give him the reinforcer (potato chips).

Also, decrease the time he has to wait before receiving positive feedback ("good job not yelling"); for example, praise given after every 1 minute was not effective; therefore, decrease the time to 40 seconds before you give him praise ("good job not yelling").