

Applying The Procedure To Decreasing Crying

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

Teacher: What kind of snack do you want?

Student: I want M&M's

Step 2: Explain the rules

Teacher: Ok. You can have two big pieces of M&M's if you follow the rule and do not cry

Student: Ok

Teacher: What is the rule?

Student: Don't cry

Teacher: Correct

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

(Based on the child's past behavior [cries 5 times per day], we will set the timer for 15 minutes)

Teacher: If you don't cry, 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 3 minutes. 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 3 minutes to 5 minutes. 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 crying and using your words

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

(timer rings)

Teacher: Great job following the rule. Did you cry?

Student: No

Teacher: That's great. Here are you M&M's.