

Yelling and Screaming - Wrong Consequences

Parent "You cannot drink soda."

Child "I want soda." (child yells and screams)

Parent "You cannot have soda, but you can have ice cream."

Child (Child stops screaming and eats the ice cream)

Antecedent (The instruction)	Behavior	Consequence	Behavior will increase or decrease in the future
Parent tells child she cannot have soda	Child yells and screams	Parent offers ice cream to stop the screaming	Soda and ice cream are both positive reinforcers to the child. The child learns she can manipulate her parent if she yells and screams. Child will continue to yell in the future.

Yelling is an inappropriate behavior. Giving a positive reinforcer (ice cream) after the yelling will increase the likelihood the yelling will happen again in the future. Giving the child something she does not like (e.g. chores or loss or privileges) would have decreased the behavior in the future. It's important to know what the child likes and dislikes in order to clearly know what can be used as effective consequences.