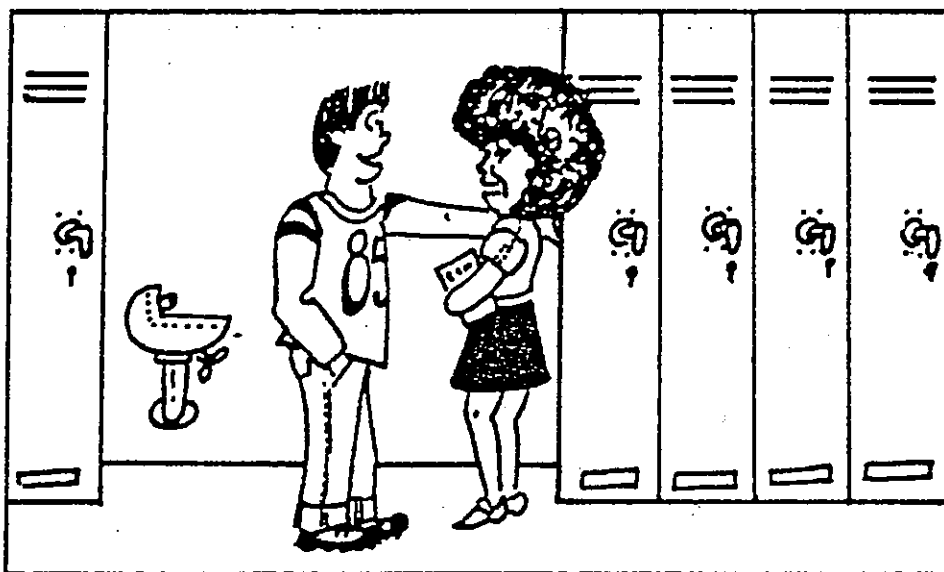


Section: Behavior Management
Topic: Praise, Ignoring and Extinction

How to Praise

A common and effective way to correct misbehavior is to find and praise someone who is behaving correctly. For instance, if you are working with three students, and only two are paying attention, while the other is making faces, you should say "Great Carol and Jim! You're really concentrating on this assignment!" This avoids giving attention to Tom, who is exhibiting unacceptable behavior.

Another important aspect of praise is to be specific in what you are praising. For example, say "that was an excellent job of reading your grocery list!" rather than just "Good." This makes the student quite aware of the exact behavior that you are reinforcing.

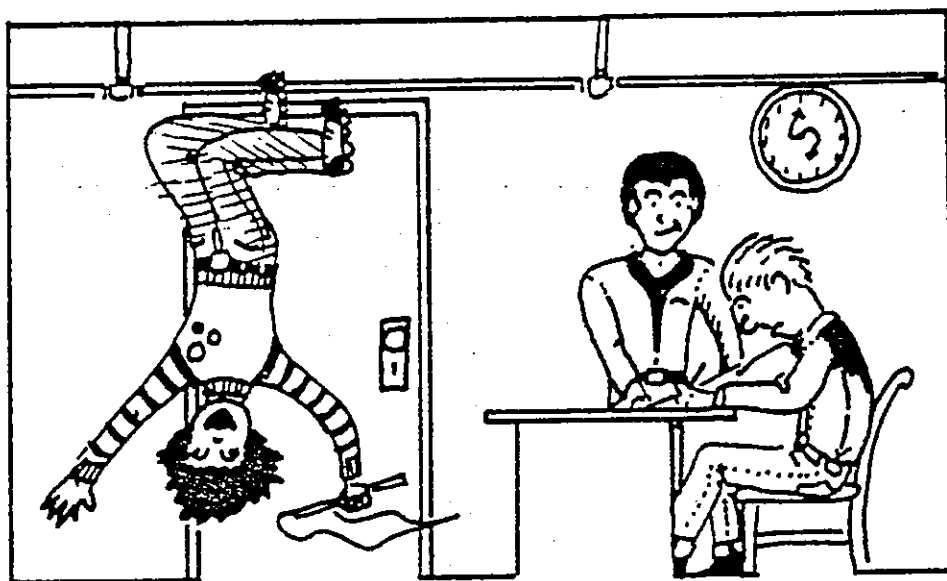


*BE SPECIFIC IN YOUR PRAISE:
"HEY!! YOUR HAIR LOOKS SUPER."*

How to Ignore

The opposite of praising is to ignore someone. Many types of misbehaviors are methods of gaining someone's attention. The clown who does anything to get a laugh in class, the child who acts silly to get others to watch him, the person who constantly complains of being sick or hurt - all are learned attention-getters which have worked in the past. However, when those behaviors are ignored, they will often disappear.

Ignoring on a consistent basis can be much more effective in dealing with misbehaviors than criticism or punishment.



*TRY TO IGNORE DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR,
AND PRAISE THOSE WHO WORK.*

Try to ignore those behaviors which are inappropriate and, instead, praise those who are doing the right thing at the right time (i.e., the student who is attempting to plan an activity with a calculator should receive your attention and praise instead of the "goof-off" who is giggling and not working.

When You Can't Ignore

There may be times when the behavior is so disruptive that it interferes with the safety or learning of other students you are working with (throwing spit-wads or kicking under the table). It is best to consult with the classroom teacher beforehand to know the proper procedure for discipline when this occurs. The teacher still has primary responsibility for all the students including those you are tutoring.

It is important not to react impulsively with threats or discipline that can't be enforced or are not appropriate. By keeping the classroom teacher informed of the incidents, you will receive the advice and assistance you need to handle these situations.

Extinction

If a behavior is ignored long enough or receives no reinforcer, then it may finally disappear, or extinguish. An example of this would be a boy calling a girl repeatedly for a date and always being turned down. Eventually he will give up calling - thus calling behavior has been extinguished. It is important to note, however, that if a behavior is ignored for awhile, but then reinforced, the chances are that the behavior will continue because there is always that chance for reinforcement. For instance, if on the fifth try, the girl gives in and goes on a date with the boy, he will be encouraged to keep calling for a date again, regardless of how many times he is turned down.

Manipulative Devices

We all have learned to manipulate situations and people in order to get our ways. The cute blond girl who bats her pretty blue-eyes at her teacher may get special privileges. The star football player may steer his coach/math teacher into a discussion of last Saturday's game to avoid covering the assignment he neglected to do. The students you will be working with may try to manipulate you at times. For instance, talking about something that happened in P.E. instead of getting ready for work or an activity. Often, this may be an unconscious device which they have developed with tasks which were too difficult. So be aware of these situations, and bring the student back on task by ignoring the comment, or saying you will discuss that after the lesson and returning to the task.

Adapted from _____, _____ (198_).

Section: Behavior Management
Topic: Praise, Ignoring and Extinction

Assignment #: _____
Due Date _____
Name _____

Read the attached paper and answer the following questions. Try to use examples from your teaching.

1. List 3 tangible reinforcers.

a.

b.

c.

2. List 2 token reinforcers

a.

b.

3. List 6 social reinforcers.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

4. List two tips for effective praise.

a.

b.

5. Why do students misbehave?

6. What should you do if you can't ignore a behavior?

7. Give an example of extinction.

8. What will happen if you ignore a behavior for awhile, and then reinforce it by giving the person attention?

Read the attached paper and answer the following questions. Try to use examples from your teaching.

Section: Behavior Management
Topic: Changing Behavior

Being on our "best behavior" is important if we are going out in public, making new friends and being successful on a job. This section discusses techniques for helping people who have disabilities learn more appropriate ways to behave.

After completing this section, you will be able to pinpoint a behavior that can be changed. You will also be able to describe a technique or principle that will successfully help change a person's behavior.