

Problems with Adults



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- Attention for problem behavior
- Button Pushing
- Any Change In Teacher Behavior
- Over Dependence on Adult Attention
- Adults Block Access To Reinforcers
- Adults As A Source Of Demands

Why problems with adults?

- ▶ 1) Adults will often give a bigger reaction to behavior problems than peers (this would cover the “naughty” kind of attention)
- ▶ 2) Adults often mediate powerful reinforcers, therefore they (at times) must also block access to or withhold powerful reinforcers
- ▶ 3) Adults require children to do things that they don't want to do
- ▶ 4) Adult attention can generally be a tremendous reinforcer for a variety of behaviors (this refers to the “nice-nice” kind of attention).

Attention

- ▶ Button pushing: inappropriate attention seeking that produces upset behavior on the part of the teacher
- ▶ Best handled using a “non-reactive” response (fractions)
- ▶ Any change in teacher attention, even looking away, may be enough of a reaction. It is best to decide what kind of attention to give and only use that. Act, don't REACT

Overdependence on Adult Attention

- ▶ Adult attention has to be used carefully to reinforce independent task completion
- ▶ Start small and keep going
- ▶ Run back to child after task completion like the child is “on fire”
- ▶ Encourage and/or teach independent leisure skills that may have to be (initially) reinforced by attention

Adults block access to SR+

- ▶ 1) Blocked access to things the child can never have (requires reasonable replacements)
- ▶ May also be necessary to make it clear where and when the child CAN get the reinforcer that cannot be given in school
- ▶ If the child has failed to earn something that is to be given later in the day, it may be necessary to use pre-correction to remind the child that this is the case. If the child is going to have a bad reaction he'll most likely have it when using the pre-correction
- ▶ 2) Blocked access to things that child just can't have (or shouldn't have) right now
- ▶ Use yes but, yes as soon as strategy or "Granting them their wishes in fantasy" (highly verbal kids)

Adults as a source of demands

- ▶ Problems with demands can be greatly reduced through balancing out interactions and moving the child's attention from what they have to do to what they will be able to earn
- ▶ Balancing interactions means sometimes you approach the child just to have a pleasant interaction and not always to correct, prompt, scold, etc.
- ▶ Approach problems with demands as problems of not focusing on what can be earned
- ▶ Instead of "It's time to work" you can try "What would you like to earn?"

It's not your job to make students work!!!

- ▶ **It is absolutely not your job to make students work**
- ▶ It is your job to create an environment conducive to wanting to work
- ▶ It is your job to show a student how to do something
- ▶ It is your job to help a motivated student who is stuck on a problem