

Autism Initiative: Training Series

Module 3: Skill Development and Learning for Life Chapter 3.2: Basic Components of Effective Skill Development

Part 1: Positive and Negative Reinforcement

Self-Assessment of Material

1. What is reinforcement?
 - a. The process of strengthening something in the environment to increase quality of life.
 - b. When a stimulus follows a behavior and increases the likelihood of that behavior happening in the future.
 - c. When a stimulus follows a behavior and decreases the likelihood of that behavior happening in the future.

2. An unconditioned reinforcer is:
 - a. Only reinforcing when paired with other items.
 - b. Reinforcing with the help of a staff member.
 - c. An object or event that is reinforcing without prior learning.
 - d. An event that occurs after a behavior that will always be rewarding.

3. An example of a conditioned reinforcer would be:
 - a. Food.
 - b. Money.
 - c. Water.
 - d. Sleep.

4. Which of the following represent the 4 types of reinforcers?
 - a. Open, Closed, Token, Social.
 - b. Primary, Symbolic, Automatic, Natural.
 - c. Primary, Tangible, Symbolic, Social.
 - d. Natural, Conditioned, Symbolic, Social.

5. What is positive reinforcement?
 - a. When a stimulus is presented during a behavior and the future likelihood of that behavior decreases.
 - b. When a stimulus is presented after a behavior and leads to an increase in the future likelihood of that behavior.
 - c. The procedure used when trying to relate conditioned reinforcers to unconditioned reinforcers.

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6. What is negative reinforcement?
 - a. When a stimulus is removed following a target behavior so that future likelihood of that behavior is increased.
 - b. When a stimulus is presented following a target behavior so that the future likelihood of that behavior decreases.
 - c. When a stimulus signals that a behavior is undesirable and likelihood of that behavior increases.
 - d. When a stimulus signals that a behavior is undesirable and likelihood of that behavior decreases.

7. TRUE or FALSE: Escape conditioning is a type of negative reinforcement in which the function of the behavior is to allow the individual to get away from undesired settings or tasks.
 - a. True
 - b. False

8. TRUE or FALSE: Avoidance conditioning is a type of negative reinforcement in which the function of the behavior is to allow the individual to stay away from undesired settings or tasks.
 - a. True
 - b. False