

## FROM A BEHAVIORAL LENS: UTILIZING POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT IN CLASSROOMS

*by:*

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Teaching is a laborious yet very fulfilling profession, with educators having a fundamental impact in aiding learners to develop the knowledge and skills they need in life. As teachers prepare for the daily basis of class sessions, it is essential to implement comprehensible teaching strategies in a classroom setting to achieve learning goals or standards for the students. For decades, teachers have leveraged reinforcement strategies to mold students' behavior (Matuszewski, 2020). With this, most of the teachers find utilizing reinforcement effective in instilling good behavior in the students and motivating them to learn eagerly as well.

Positive reinforcement can be used to teach relevant skills and boost appropriate behaviors by displaying certain kinds of motivation such as rewarding or praising. In a classroom, the teacher may deliver positive reinforcement after every correct response from their student/s. Delivering reinforcement after every five minutes of on-task behavior or giving a sticker to students once they've completed an assignment can also be effective to stimulate a particular behavior as it is rewarding.

Additionally, in the classroom, teachers should closely observe rapid improvements in students' behavior if they reinforce desired responses whenever they observe them. For instance, a teacher has noticed a diligent student working on his/her activity while other students behave boisterously. The teacher may reinforce good praise or give out incentives to urge positive behavior to continue among all students, not just one. The teacher should, then, continue to reinforce this behavior every time it occurs to attach a strong relationship between the positive behavior and the reinforcements.

Enacting such practices in a classroom setting emphasizes how positive reinforcement serves the purpose of rewarding well-behaved students and encouraging other students who do not behave appropriately to do so. When used carefully and in moderation, positive reinforcement in the classroom brings out the efforts of the students to do good and excel more in class which ultimately serves the purpose of effectively shaping good student behaviors.

*References:*

Matuszewski, J. (2020, November 26). The Truth About Negative and Positive Reinforcement In the Classroom. Tip-Top Brain.

<https://tiptopbrain.com/blog/positive-reinforcement-in-the-classroom/>