

POWER OF REWARD: EXPLORING POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT IN IMPROVING LITERACY READINESS AMONG ELEMENTARY PUPILS

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Positive reinforcement has been shown to be beneficial in improving elementary school children's reading in recent studies and efforts. Teachers can create an inspiring environment that encourages academic success by recognizing and rewarding desired actions.

There have also been encouraging outcomes from using positive reinforcement in the classroom. Behavior-specific praising was presented as a workable tactic for educators and families to boost student engagement in a 2023 study. It has been demonstrated that this strategy improves student engagement and academic achievement by giving targeted feedback on desired behaviors (Simonsen et al., 2023).

Furthermore, a more favorable attitude toward reading and greater motivation have been associated with the usage of material rewards. Programs that honor students' accomplishments with certificates or other incentives, for example, have been shown to increase students' motivation and dedication to enhancing their literacy.

In order to help pupils comprehend what activities are being recognized, acknowledge specific behaviors or accomplishments. Simonsen, et al. (2023) assert that behavior-specific praise strengthens the bond between teachers and students while also raising student involvement. For instance, "Great job sounding out that difficult word!" offers a more impactful praise than using the general phrases like "Good job!" because it gives precise feedback and reinforces the behavior that has to be repeated. According to

studies, pupils who receive targeted, regular praise are more likely to engage in class activities and become more assured of their reading skills.

Moreover, stickers, certificates, or privileges are examples of tangible rewards that can be used as extrinsic motivators to help students stick with literacy activities. Cameron and Pierce's (2023) study revealed that students who received small, incremental rewards for finishing reading tasks showed higher levels of sustained engagement and progress than those who did not receive incentives. In order to reinforce a positive association between reading and learning, it can be helpful to use stickers, prize boxes, or special classroom privileges to recognize students' efforts and accomplishments.

To set clear expectations and reinforce desired behaviors, use reinforcement techniques on a regular basis. Consistent reinforcement creates structure in the classroom and makes it easier for children to absorb positive behaviors, according to research by Reinke et al. (2023). Reinforcement is less effective when it is used infrequently because pupils may become unsure of what is expected of them. Students stay motivated and involved in literacy tasks when a regular method is used, such as daily reinforcement exercises or acknowledgment of reading progress. By implementing these strategies, teachers can establish a nurturing classroom atmosphere that uses positive reinforcement to improve elementary pupils' literacy results.

References:

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