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SPED 760

M5: Assignment on Positive and Negative Consequences

1. Positive reinforcement

Positive reinforcement means that the occurrence of a behavior increases following an individual getting something that they desire.

For example, if Bobby were allowed to play on his phone at the end of class for completing his classwork, and the amount of days he completes classwork each week increases, this would have been positive reinforcement.

1. Negative reinforcement

Negative reinforcement means that the occurrence of a behavior increases following the removal of some aversive event or stimulus.

For example, if Bobby received an alternate assignment to the written assignment for participating in group discussions and Bobby’s participation in discussions increased, this would have been negative reinforcement with the written assignment serving as the aversive stimulus being removed.

1. Negative punishment

Negative punishment means that the occurrence of a behavior decreases following the removal of a pleasant stimulus.

For example, if Bobby’s phone were taken away for ripping apart papers in class and Bobby ripped papers up less frequently then this would have been negative punishment.

1. Positive punishment

Positive punishment means that the occurrence of a behavior decreases following the addition of an unpleasant stimulus.

For example, if when Bobby ripped up a paper in class the teacher added an additional paper to his work and the occurrence of Bobby ripping up papers decreases then this would have been positive punishment.