

Intervention Name: **Removal of Punishment**

Brief Description

Positive punishment occurs when an aversive stimulus as a consequence is applied in response to appropriate behavior (see below). The presentation of an aversive stimulus causes a decrease in appropriate behavior and has long-term behavior effects. The removal of the positive punishment involves the elimination of this punishment so that it is more likely that appropriate behavior will occur in the future.

What “Common Problems” Does This Address?

Removal of punishment addresses the problem of appropriate behavior being positively punished. By removing the positive punishment it is more likely that appropriate behavior will continue.

Procedures

1. The teacher must first identify the appropriate behavior and the punishment of that behavior.
2. The teacher then brainstorms a method for removing the positive punishment.
3. When the appropriate behavior occurs again, the teacher uses their method for removing the positive punishment.
4. Steps 1-3 are repeated until the child no longer associates their appropriate behavior with the positive punishment.

Critical Components that must be implemented for intervention to be successful:

Teacher or administrator must be able to identify the aversive stimulus or punishment that is causing a decrease in appropriate behavior.

Materials

None

Types of Aversive Stimuli

There are two types of aversive stimuli: unconditioned aversive stimuli and conditioned aversive stimuli. An unconditioned aversive stimulus results in pain or discomfort for the child. They produce a behavior without need for a previous experience. Examples of unconditioned aversive stimuli are punching, hitting, or pinching. A conditioned stimulus results from the pairing of an unconditioned aversive stimulus with certain experience. For example, a child may have experienced telling on a classmate to the teacher with being punched on the playground.

References

Alberto, P.A., & Troutman, A.C. (2003). *Applied behavior analysis for teachers* (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Carlisle Publishers Services, Ltd.