



HELPFUL TERMINOLOGY



These definitions will help with the understanding and teaching new prosocial behaviors to students

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)- a scientific approach to understanding behavior and how it is affected by the environment

- **Antecedent-** an event that happens before a behavior occurs or triggers the behavior.
- **Behavior-** what a person does
 - **Observable**
 - **Measurable**
 - **Objective**
- **Consequence-** what happens immediately after a behavior is exhibited
- **Differential reinforcement-** reinforcing a desired behavior while ignoring or providing less reinforcement for an undesired behavior
- **Errorless teaching-** teaching a new skills and concepts to students without allowing them to make errors during the learning process.
- **Extinction-** when reinforcement no longer happens after the behavior
- **Generalization-** the ability to apply learned skills and behaviors in different contexts, situations, and with other people
- **Instructional control-** the ability to influence the student's behavior by providing clear instructions, reinforcing desired responses, and withholding reinforcement for undesired responses



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- **Preference assessment**-a method of identifying the student's preferred items and activities
- **Promised reinforcer**-using a preferred item or activity as a reinforcer for transitioning from one task to another
- **Prompting**- providing cues or hints to help a student perform a desired behavior
 - Verbal
 - Gestural
 - Visual
 - Physical
- **Punishment**-things that follow behavior and **decrease** the chances that it will happen again because things **ALWAYS** get worse
- **Reinforcement**- things that follow behavior and **increase** the chances it will happen again because things **ALWAYS** gets better
 - **Positive reinforcement** involves adding something preferred after the desired behavior is exhibited
 - **Negative reinforcement** involves removing something aversive after the desired behavior is exhibited
- **Shaping**- breaking a complex task down into smaller, more manageable steps and reinforcing each step along the way
- **Token economy**-a motivational system in which an individual's positive behaviors are recognized with a concrete event or token that later can be exchanged for a variety of objects or activities