



REINFORCEMENT DEFINITIONS



Understanding the use of reinforcement will lead to better outcomes for shaping student prosocial behaviors.

The term reinforcement refers to a type of conditioning that involves increasing the likelihood of a desired behavior by providing a positive consequence immediately following that behavior. Reinforcement can be used to strengthen a behavior, making it more likely to occur in the future.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- **Adding something that is preferred or desirable in response to desirable behavior which increases the likelihood of behavior occurring in the future.**



NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT

- **Taking something away that is not preferred or undesirable in response to the desirable behavior which increases the likelihood of behavior occurring in the future.**

