Section: Behavior Management
Topic: Changing Behavior

This topic describes some principles and techniques that can be used to help the person(s) you teach acquire new behaviors or stop behaving in ways that are annoying or harmful.

1. **Positive Reinforcement Principle.** In order to increase the chances that a student will perform a correct or desirable task again, provide an immediate reward afterwards.

"How'm I gonna learn Joey anything if I can't give him a little reward when he DOES it?"

Arrange immediate reinforcement after each correct performance.
2. One person's reinforcer may not work for another. Just as some people like coffee and others don't, one student will like certain types of praise while another won't.

"Wait till I get my hands on Amy — going around saying I'm a straight 'A' student!"

Events that reinforce one person may not reinforce another.

3. The Shaping Technique. To teach a student a task or activity s/he has never performed before, reinforce attempts that approximate the goal. Try to reinforce improvement!

PATRICK - - BY MAL HANCOCK

Reward successive steps to the final behavior.

Dennis the Menace

By HANK KETCHAM

"That's where my Mom pastes a gold star on the days I'm good."

Reward successive improvements instead of waiting for perfect behavior.
4. **Modeling.** Students will learn new behaviors by watching more prestigious persons. You are a powerful model for behavior.

5. **The Incompatible Alternative Principle.** To stop a student from acting in a particular way, you may reward an alternative action that is inconsistent with or cannot be performed at the same time as the undesired act.
6. The Extinction Principle. If a student is performing undesirable behavior, try ignoring it. Provide no reinforcement.

Behavior not followed by reinforcement tends to be extinguished.

"Try ignoring him."

The Extinction Principle stops another person's undesirable behavior only when you can control all his sources of reinforcement.
Review each of the principles and techniques in the attached article. For each list an example that you might use in your own teaching. Provide an example student behavior and an appropriate use of the technique.

1. Positive Reinforcement
   Example behavior:

   Technique:

2. One person’s reinforcer may not work for another.
   Example behavior:

   Technique:

3. The Shaping Technique
   Example behavior:

   Technique:
4. **Modeling**

   Example behavior:

   Technique:

5. **The Incompatible Alternative Principle**

   Example behavior:

   Technique:

6. **The Extinction Principle**

   Example behavior:

   Technique: