

Differential Reinforcement

1. DRO (Differential Reinforcement of Zero Rates of Behavior)
 - Reinforce student for a period of time when inappropriate behavior does NOT occur.
 - No head-banging for 10 seconds, then reinforce.
 - Gradually increase interval.
2. DRI (Differential Reinforcement of Incompatible Behaviors)
 - Identify appropriate behavior that is opposite of maladaptive one.
 - Systematically reinforce appropriate behavior.
 - Reinforce “quiet hands” to decrease hand-flapping.
 - Reinforce student who is coloring (both hands busy) instead of face-slapping.
3. DRL (Differential Reinforcement of Lower Rates of Behavior)
 - Reinforce a lower rate of an inappropriate behavior.
 - Student who engages in 15 minutes of self-stimulating behavior is told that if she keeps self-stimulation to 10 minutes, then she will receive a reinforcer.
 - Gradually decrease time to 5 minutes, then to 1 minute, etc.
4. DRC (Differential Reinforcement of Communicative Behavior)
 - Maladaptive behaviors might be forms of communication.
 - If teacher suspects that student’s aggression is a way of wanting something, then teach more appropriate way to ask.
 - If teacher suspects that student is self-abusing to escape a task, then teach student to ask for a “break.”