



THE TOP 5 TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING KIDS

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TOP 5 LIST...THE BEST OF THE BEST

1. Build rapport prior to work
2. Provide choices
3. Pacing.....
4. Build behavioral momentum and keep it rolling
5. Switch things up!



#1 - BUILD RAPPORT

- Non-contingent reinforcement
 - Non behavior-speak = unconditional love/affection
 - Why mom loves you even when your not “good”
 - Why you trust your best friend
 - Why you’ll extend for people you love
 - People have a basic need for this – unconditioned R+
- Kids are no different in their need to feel this, and less understanding when they don’t
 - Unless a child enjoys being with you...your work won’t “work”! This is why it’s #1!!!



BUILDING RAPPORT — HOW TO

- Spend time prior to instruction “feeling out” the child that day/session (always different)
- Do informal “exploring” for possible reinforcers
- Engage in known preferred activities with them – provide fun reinforcers prior to instruction
- Throw in a “freebee” every now and then
 - They don’t always have to get something right in order for you to have fun with them....



#2 - PROVIDE CHOICES

- Choice of reinforcer – but not only that...
 - Choice of picking out their own stuff
- Choice of what program to work on
- Choice of materials to use (pencil, blocks, etc...)
- Choice of where to sit
- Choice of where YOU sit
- Choice of what kind of voice you use



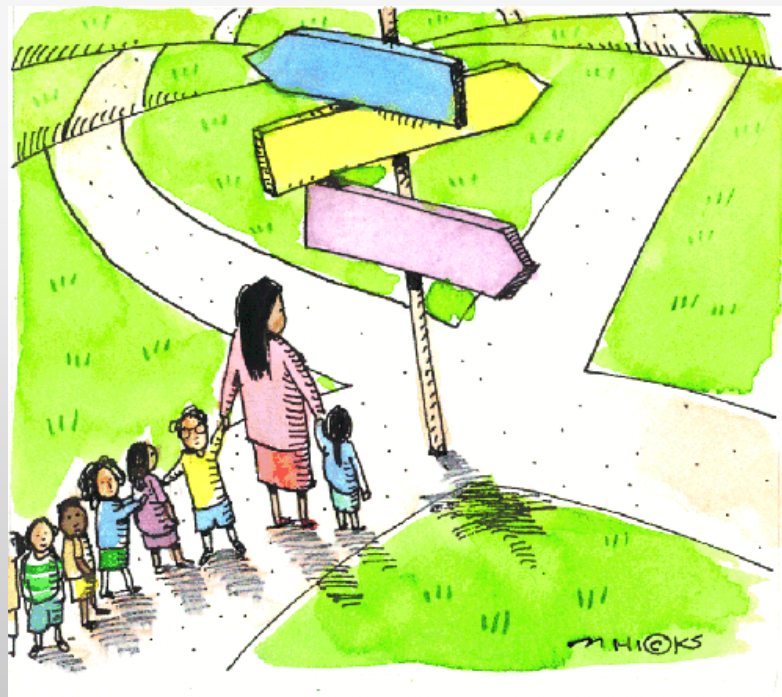
PROVIDING CHOICES

- You can ALWAYS give a choice
 - Hold two items up
 - Do you want to brush your teeth now or in 5 min?
 - Do you want to do your homework at this chair or over at the other table?
 - Do you want to pick up toys first or pick up books first?



WHY DO CHOICES WORK?...

- Choices may not be very available to kids
- They provide a feeling of empowerment
- They get a child to engage with you
- They offer some element of control
- They can be fun!



PACING!!!

- Down time is a killer! Avoid it – or plan for it!
- Plan ahead to have things ready to go – so you can move from one thing to the other fast
- Plan breaks in so there is space for you to regroup if you are actively teaching
- Have some fun activities in the wings to occupy kids if there is a lull in active teaching
- Throw in a little bonus sticker or M&M to keep it moving
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#4 – BUILD BEHAVIORAL MOMENTUM

- A very powerful tool that gets things moving
- Behavioral momentum start with an easy task and then asks for a bigger one gradually.
 - Great when the request is difficult, or big, or the child has lost motivation/momentum in responding
 - Start with a very small, fun, easy request – then another, then another - THEN then BIG request.
 - This is like getting running start...build up the momentum and pace!



#5 - SWITCH THINGS UP!

- Change what you are doing– switch activity, or go to another spot, or outside,– or playing a game –keep instruction moving along while changing the situation
- Switch materials or the appearance of what you are doing
- Switch how you present it – make it a game

