

Selecting Effective Replacement Behaviors

What is Replacement Behaviors?

Replacement behavior is a new skill we are teaching which will allow the individual to gain access to the same reinforcement that their behavior of concern once did. It must serve the same function as the behavior of concern.

Why use Replacement Behaviors?

- Replacement behaviors provide individuals with a way to get their needs met that are socially valid.
- Allows individuals to utilize their individual strengths in communication
- Provides more independence for individuals

What can Replacement Behaviors do?

- **Decrease** the occurrence of behaviors of concern.
- **Increase** independence of individuals to get their needs met.

When Selecting Replacement Behaviors:

First determine the function:

- Escape/Avoidance
 - Get away from a person, place or thing
- Access to Attention/Connection
 - Connect with an individual
- Access to Tangibles
 - Gain access to a tangible item
- Sensory/Automatic
 - Access or Escape from a feeling within the body

Then select a replacement behavior that serves the same function:

- Make sure the replacement behavior is something that the student will be able to engage in
 - Communication abilities
 - Low response effort
- Must ensure it is consistently responded to and honored by staff and it gains reinforcement more quickly than the behavior of concern

Examples of Replacement Behaviors

- Escape/Avoidance:
 - Requesting a break
 - Asking to do odd/even numbers on a worksheet
- Access to Attention/Connection
 - Raising hand
 - Saying names
- Access to Tangibles
 - Asking for items
 - Asking for additional time with items
- Sensory/Automatic
 - Turning off lights
 - Chewing gum