



HOW TO USE A PENNY BOARD

Using a penny token board system provides children with visual information about "how and when" to earn their reinforcer (e.g. when all the tokens are on the board, the reinforcer is earned). Be sure to pair this visual system of "how and when" along with a visual of the reinforcer (tangible item or photo item on the board).

Reverse Chaining



A reverse chaining procedure is recommended to initially teach the student that the tokens have value and will eventually get them a desired reinforcer. At first, begin with four pennies pre-attached on the token board and the student only has to earn one penny to receive the reinforcer. Over time decrease the number of pennies that are pre-attached to the token board until the student is working for all five pennies

Reinforcers



Bring reinforcers to the activity (with picture representations) that you know your student enjoys.

Prepare the Child



Prior to the activity, prepare the child. Let him know that the activity is beginning. Ask the student to select a reinforcer. Depending on the student's level, use a picture, icon or the actual object. If he doesn't want something you have, get additional items. Something is only reinforcing if the student wants it!

Name the Price



Once he makes a choice, tell him what he needs to do to earn the item chosen (e.g., "5 pennies for puzzle"). Break down the activity into a small step.

Pay Up



Reinforce every step done correctly/appropriately (e.g., "penny on"). Remember to also reinforce learning behaviors you are working on such as "hands down," "look at me," etc.

When all pennies are earned, the student then trades the pennies for the reinforcer. Allow him time to engage with the reinforcer.

Repeat



Let the child choose a reinforcer to work for again and repeat the steps above.

