

How to Complete a Reinforcer Probe

Introduction:

Some children with speech and language delays may have a hard time tuning in to what's going on around them. This makes it very difficult to get them to work on their speech and language skills because they may not even be aware that you want them to do anything.

For these children, we can draw them into our therapy activities by using super fun toys and activities that they find very motivating. But how do we know what those are? Well, we can complete a reinforce probe to find out what they like and what they will work for during therapy sessions.

Instructions:

1. Grab a box of toys and a list of activities that you think may motivate the child. Use the reinforce ideas on the next page of this pack.
2. Sit down with the child and offer two toys or activities. Just sit there and see if the child will reach for one. If the child does not, try playing with the toys/activities a bit yourself so he sees what they can do.
3. If he reaches for one, write down what it was. If he doesn't, put those away and pull out two more.
4. After he reaches for an item, let him play with it for a moment and then take it back and present it again along side another item that you think he might like. Write down which one he chooses.
5. Keep doing this until you have a list of 5-10 items that he has chosen over other items. If you know that he likes a certain toy (he's picked it a few times), you can put that one away so he can focus on other things.



Reinforcer Ideas

FOODS

BLUEBERRIES	MARSHMALLOWS
GRAPES	APPLES
NUTS	COCONUT FLAKES
CHIPS	DRIED FRUIT
CRACKERS	SEEDS
FRUIT SNACKS	CHERRY TOMATOES
COOKIES	MINI M&MS
CANDY	ICE CHIPS

TOYS

TOYS THAT LIGHT UP	CARS/TRUCKS
TOYS THAT MAKE SOUNDS	PUZZLES
MARBLE RUN TOY	IPAD/PHONE
TOYS THAT SPIN (LIKE FANS)	SQUISHY TOYS
BALLS OF ALL SIZES	BOOKS
TRAINS AND TRACKS	BUBBLES
TOYS FILLED WITH WATER	CRAYONS
BLOCKS	STICKERS

SENSORY

MINI-TRAMPOLINE	TENT
EXERCISE BALL (BOUNCE)	BIKE/TRIKE
GAK/SLIME	MOON SAND
ZIPLOCK BAG FULL OF PAINT	SWING
SIT AND SPIN TOY	SCOOTER BOARD
BLANKET FOR ROLLING UP	SLIDE
BUCKET OF SAND/WATER	CHEWY TOY

ACTIVITIES

TICKLES
PEEK-A-BOO
HUGS/SQUEEZES
FLIPPING UPSIDE DOWN
BOUNCING ON YOUR KNEE
SINGING SONGS
PLAYING MUSIC

When trying to figure out what reinforcers a child will work for in therapy, offer two items like the suggestions above. Mark which one the child chooses. Do this for many different reinforcers until you have several items to choose from.