



Integrating Children and Knowledge of Washington, Inc.

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Independent Play

- Pairing reinforcement with toys that CHILD has shown interest in the past or would like him to show interest in.
- Typically small part of a program (5%), however should be more for learners who do not demonstrate a variety of independent play skills. **BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A REPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR UNDER THE CONTROL OF AUTOMATIC POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT.**
- Pick 3 toys to rotate through this pairing program.
- Do the pairing for about 3 minutes only
- Work in a room without competing reinforcers and small space to keep CHILD in close proximity to the toy and getting reinforced.
- **DO NOT TALK** during this pairing. The final goal is for CHILD to **INDEPENDENTLY** play so we don't want him dependent on any of our vocal prompts.
- Every time CHILD looks at the toy he is to receive reinforcement. Use highly reinforcing food items. Put directly in his mouth. **VARY THE FOOD ITEMS FREQUENTLY (AND POSSIBLY WITHIN THE SAME PAIRING SESSION)** Make sure when the food goes in his mouth he is looking at the toy, not somewhere else or you will be shaping up looking at something else. This can be hard! You have to be quick.
- It is ok to move the toy around, tap on it, make noise with it so that CHILD looks at it.
- After the 3 minutes is up you will leave the toy out in the NET so that he has free access to it.
- If CHILD is "caught" looking at it, touching it or manipulating it **REINFORCE!**
- We need to take note over time if he is approaching these toys at all when placed out in the Natural Environment.
- This will be subjective but when we notice that he is readily looking at or touching these items we will then change the criteria during the 3 minute pairing session to touching the item to get the reinforcer delivered.
- After he is touching the toy when placed in the natural environment readily we have to increase the criteria during pairing to manipulating the toy (not

saying , “do this” but simply through motor imitation. START EASY: JUST TOUCHING IT, STIMMING WITH IT, THEN MOVING IT APPROPRIATELY.

- THIS IS IN ADDITION TO YOUR CURRENT NET TARGETS WHERE YOU ARE FOLLOWING YOUR NET “PLANS”:
 - PAIRING YOURSELF AS REINFORCEMENT
 - WORKING ON GIVING UP REINFORCEMENT
 - WORKING ON MANDING FOR THE REINFORCER BACK
 - WORKING ON SLOWLY FADING IN “DEMANDS” RELATED TO THE ACTIVITY BEFORE GIVING THE REINFORCER BACK (so you are pairing each activity with reinforcement for “future” manding opportunities).