

WRITTEN BEHAVIOR CONTRACT



WHAT IS IT?

The behavior contract (also known as a contingency contract) is a simple positive-reinforcement intervention that is widely used by teachers to improve student behavior. The behavior contract explicitly explains the expectations of students and in carrying out an intervention plan, if necessary.

WHEN TO USE IT?

When a student is unable to abide by the classroom contract and more individual assistance is needed to correct the behavior.

WHY IT WORKS!

The student usually has input into the conditions that are established within the contract for earning rewards, the student is more likely to abide by the terms of the behavior contract than if those terms had been imposed by someone else.

Rationale:

- Developing and implementing a written behavioral contract is one method to provide rewards and consequences to students.
- Teachers can effectively shape appropriate behavior and minimize problem behavior through contracts.
- Setting goals has been linked to behavioral and academic improvements.

EXAMPLE:

Behavior Contract

Rules and procedures help to keep our classroom safe and functioning properly. We are all here to do a job: whether that job is to teach or to learn.

When someone interferes with us being able to do our jobs, there will be *negative* consequences.

When we work together to do our jobs well, there will be *positive* consequences.

I, _____, agree to abide by all rules of the classroom and school for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year.

If I choose to break these rules, I will accept all consequences, which may be any of the following:

- phone call or email home
- lunch detention
- after school detention
- staying after school to complete work or extra work
- referral to administration
- public apology to classmates

X _____
Sign first and last name above if you agree to follow all rules and procedures.

X _____
Teacher Signature

Sign below if you would like to stay after school today, Thursday, January 23 to discuss alternative options.

X _____

TYPES OF WRITTEN BEHAVIOR CONTRACTS

How to Create a Written Behavior Contract

- Step 1: Customize the contract (Based on student needs).
- Step 2: Set up a meeting with the involved parties (Student/teacher/parents).
- Step 3: Communicate the rewards and consequences.
- Step 4: Schedule a follow-up meeting.
- Step 5: Be consistent in the classroom.
- Step 6: Be patient and trust the plan.

HOW TO USE IMPLIMENT IN SPECIFIC CONTENT AREAS:

- A behavior contract is considered a Tier 2 behavior innervation.
- A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) may be used to determine the root cause of the problem.
- In Special Education:
 - Follow IEP (individual Education Plan).
 - If IEP is not successful, resort to a FBA, or BIP (Behavioral Intervention Plan)
 - Finally, implement the written behavioral contract.
- English Language Learners:
 - Understand the stress of not being able to communicate effectively. Some information may be mis-interpreted.
 - Use a list of "survival words" that are commonly used in the classroom.
 - Have a facilitator who can help with communication. And offer a contract in both languages.
- Cooperative Learning Enviornments:
 - Use "talking-circles", a restorative core process to create a contract with guidelines.
- Rewards: Use rewards to enforce positive behavior.
 - Token rewards: Objects earned and accumulated, then cashed for prizes.
 - Tickets for raffles.
 - Social reinforcers: High five, work/projects displayed, and positive notes sent home.
 - Extra privilege reinforcers: Recess, music, and free-time.
- Replacement Behaviors: Should be written in positive terms and specifically stating the target behavior to increase.
- Reactive strategies: Give yourself time to cool down, and state comments related to "action", not the student.

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