**Positive/Negative Reinforcement**

**Negative Reinforcement: It just doesn’t work!**

Making a poor/degrading type of statement or action designed to eliminate the behaviour just exhibited. This does not change behaviour; it only makes folks feel bad.

**Positive Reinforcement: Oh yeah, it works!**

Definition: Using praise to reward good behaviour as a way to encourage repetition of that behaviour.

Positive reinforcement has three steps for implementation:

1. **Rules:** Identify specific behaviour that you want the student to learn. Keep the rules simple and few. There should be a very clear way of identifying whether the rule is being followed.
2. **Ignore:** Identify specific behaviour that you want changed. Do not respond to disruptive or incorrect behaviour with reprimands or scolding. (This step is the most difficult to follow.)
3. **Praise:** Identify appropriate behaviour with approval. The prime rule is “Catch the student being good.”

Positive Reinforcement is a procedure of modifying behaviour. You can ignore disruptive behaviour unless someone is getting hurt. Focus your attention on the students who are working well to prompt correct behaviours in the students who are misbehaving. Say, “ I like the way you are trying this question out even though you said it was difficult.”

Remember: *Affecting a real change in behaviour is a slow process.* Many of the inappropriate behaviours have been learned and acquired over a long time.

If you are experiencing disruption in your tutoring relationships and you are having difficulty, please speak with your sponsor teacher or Ms. Davis.

