



# the educator's edge

## best practices for your classroom

### Teaching Positive Behavior Supports

Sarah Smith & Adriana Schmidt , Autism Specialists

Do you struggle with keeping students motivated, on task, and completing classroom assignments in an efficient and timely manner? Consider diving into implementing reinforcement systems based on students' motivation and interests. Planned positive reinforcement is an effective and evidence-based strategy in promoting desirable change in student behavior and skill development in the classroom and beyond. Reinforcement is not a bribe if it is presented as a set of clear expectations prior to engaging in the target behavior or skill. When introducing a new skill or behavior expectation, it is extremely important that reinforcement is delivered immediately after the desired behavior or skill is exhibited, that the delivery is consistent and contingent upon desired behavior or skills, and when possible, the age-appropriate reinforcers are used and paired with verbal praise or other social reinforcement. At Easterseals, we use preference assessments to help us determine what motivates our students. When choosing reinforcers to use with students with autism, it is important to follow a specific set of steps to ensure that the selected items will be effective for use in a reinforcement system. What may be motivating for one student may be aversive to other students. Consider checking out our preference assessment tool below as a free download to help your staff conduct preference assessments in the school setting.

[FREE Preference Assessment- Click Here!](#)

### NEW! Autism Training Seminar Series

Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Rockford Region presents the **STRIVE** for Success Autism Training Series. This four part comprehensive series will cover the fundamental strategies any professional, educator, or administrator can use to set their students up for independence and success.

#### STRIVE for Success Autism Training Series

\$99 per day | CEUs & CPDUs | 8:30am-3:30pm

#### November's Topics

Teaching Replacement Behaviors &  
Reinforcing Positive Outcomes

Rockford | Naperville | Tinley Park

[Register here!](#)

### Illinois Autism Partnership (IAP)

IAP builds the capacity of school districts statewide so they may provide effective programming for students with an autism spectrum disorder. Our individualized coaching, consulting, family engagement and training programs offer school districts a wide-range of in district professional development options.



[Request more info on IAP here!](#)