

## Accept and Celebrate Successive Approximations of the Final Behavioral Goal

Celebrate the little successes on the way to the big one. The key to shaping appropriate behavior is to reinforce improvements as they occur rather than withholding reinforcement until the individual has reached her or his final goal. If reinforcement is not provided for achieving the intermediate steps, the desirable behavior will either not develop or will quickly deteriorate. When improvement occurs and is sustained for a few days, the criterion for reinforcement should be made gradually more stringent. Such a process increases the likelihood that behavior will improve and that treatment gains will be sustained.



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### Question 24

Describe a situation in which whining or tantrum behaviors are a problem, and describe an intervention designed to modify the behavior. Indicate the final goal, the intermediate goals, and how reinforcement should be provided to maximize its effectiveness.

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## Simplify Intervention and Data Collection Procedures

Unfortunately, effective interventions and the use of data-based problem solving have been rejected by many teachers. One of the primary reasons for this is that the data collection or interventions have seemed cumbersome, overly time consuming, or otherwise resource intensive.