Relationship Building

Goals

- Learn how relationship building meets the needs of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Learn why relationship building is important
- Describe strategies to establish yourself as a reinforcer
- Identify how to know if you have established a good relationship

Relationship Building & ASD

Two of the core features of ASD include deficits in:

_____

_____

Quality relationships address the core deficits in a client with ASD.

Staff can _____ appropriate communication and social skills.

The time staff and client work together will be more _____.

Building a good relationship increases _____ and _____ during the time you spend with a client.

Our willingness to _____ and be productive increases when we are with people we like to be around.

Relationship building helps to establish you as a _____. When you become the _____ that increases the behavior of the client you are working with, you will also notice that you have to use _____ contrived reinforcers during the sessions.

How to Establish Yourself as a Reinforcer

1. _____ yourself with preferred activities
2. Make activities _____ when you are involved
3. Give access to preferred activities
4. Be consistent
5. Show _____
6. Show care and respect

Pairing Yourself with Preferred Activities

By pairing yourself with preferred activities the client already enjoys, you become an example of a _____: a stimulus that acquires its reinforcing value through its pairing with already reinforcing conditions.

Pairing yourself means you are present or involved in activities the client already enjoys.
Passive: _____ a favorite cartoon with a client
Active: _____ with toys or a favorite game together, or providing and eating a favorite snack together

Make Activities More Reinforcing When You are Involved

You can involve yourself in an activity by adding to the aspects of the activity that the learner enjoys.

Examples:

_____ on a swing
Adding to the excitement by making anticipating _____

Over time, the client will prefer to do the activity with you rather than alone.

Give Access to Preferred Activities

When beginning to build a relationship with a client, _____ Provide very frequent access to items or activities.

withhold access to the activities
Sometimes you should provide items and activities as a reinforcer, but you should also allow_____so you are not associated only with work demands.

Be Consistent

Being consistent in your interactions and expectations; this helps build a_____relationship.
Be consistent in your mood,_____of voice, and facial_____.

Keep the amount of_____consistent from session to session. *Show*

Enthusiasm

Being enthusiastic lets your client know that you enjoy being with him or her. You can:
- Be excited and_____success
- Give_____and acknowledge accomplishments
- Pair your_____with preferred activities

Show Care & Respect

Showing care and respect is (nice/preferred/crucial).   **Circle one**

Always use language and a tone of voice you would want someone to use with you.

Many learners with ASD may not have the communication or skills to tell me when they are feeling_____, unwell, or_____.
It is important that I notice outward signs of distress and show concern.
Seek guidance from a_____and report mood and changes in affect to a _____
or supervisor.

When discussing challenging behavior, you should_____talking about the client's challenges in front of them.

When Should I Use These Strategies?

You should dedicate time to build a strong and positive relationship in the beginning, before you start placing demands, but also use these strategies_____the time during_____session.

Some strategies may be used_____frequently over time, such as_____yourself with preferred activities. Other strategies should never be faded, i.e. showing_____, being_____, and showing _____
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How Will I Know if I Have Established a Good Relationship?

Changes you might notice:
Both you and the client will smile and laugh together more often.
Both you and the client will look forward to sessions even more.
The client will display together _____ challenging behavior and be more_____during sessions