Behavior Contract Strategy

Implementing a Behavioral Contract for Students in the Classroom

The Behavior Contract Provides:

- An avenue of communication between student and teacher
- Goals for the student's behavior
- Positive reinforcement
- Clearly defined expectations
- Motivation for appropriate behavior
- Opportunity for students to develop self-management skills
- A foundation for good behavior and habits
- A toolbox for parents to use at home for behavioral problems
- A reference point for students to understand what their expectations are

Behavior Contract

I, _____, agree to do the following behaviors:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When: _____

How Well: _____

If I am successful, I will receive _____, given by _____, on _____.

Bonus Clause _____

_____

Penalty Clause _____

_____

(Student Signature) Date

(Teacher Signature) Date

Adapted from "The Tough Kid Tool Box" (Jenson, Rhone, & Reavis, 1994)

The Behavior Contracts Needs to be:

- Tailored to the student's individual needs
- Focused on the most critical behavior issues
- Carefully and clearly conveying expectations
- Fair to both the teacher and student (neither should feel abused/pressured)
- Frequently reevaluated and renegotiated
- Mutually acceptable when concerning student behavior goals
- Reasonable and feasible
- Reward performance based
- Positively stated
- A mutually satisfying while still being an accurate assessment
- Within the existing classroom/school rules and expectations
- Signed by the student and the teacher(s)

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Steps to Implementing a Behavior Contract:

1. Identifying the Behavior to be Resolved
2. Team Planning
   * Meeting with other teachers and administrators
   * Developing a behavioral plan
3. Student and Teacher Conferences
   * Teacher(s) meet with student to develop contract
   * Teacher and student agree on their responsibilities
   * Specific goals are identified for the student to accomplish
   * Contract is placed so the student can easily see it and be reminded
4. Parent and Teacher Conferences
   *Sharing behavioral plan/contract with family
   * Keeping family informed of progress
5. Implementing the Plan
   * Include other teachers such as Music teacher
   * Develop checklist to record completion of tasks/successes
   * Positive reinforcement

"Yep. Whenever Mrs. Clarke raises her eyebrows at me."

Behavioral Contracts Work for Many Students and Many Behavioral Issues:

- Gives students with ADHD, ADD, & ASD a focus point to work on
- Provides students with LD or EBD small steps to gradually work on
- Gives all students a starting point for their behavior with a clear goal/expectation in sight
- Allows for students to work towards a reward through positive reinforcement
- Increases a student's independence as they develop good habits

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