

149 Becomes upset when a suggestion or constructive criticism is given

1. Reinforce the student for responding in an appropriate manner to constructive criticism based on the number of times the student can be successful. Gradually increase the number of times required for reinforcement as the student demonstrates success.
2. Remove the student from the group or activity until he/she can demonstrate appropriate behavior or self-control.
3. Write a contract with the student specifying what behavior is expected (e.g., responding appropriately to constructive criticism) and what reinforcement will be made available when the terms of the contract have been met. (See Appendix for Behavioral Contract.)
4. Communicate with the parents (e.g., notes home, phone calls, etc.) in order to share information concerning the student's progress and so that they can reinforce the student at home for responding in an appropriate manner to constructive criticism at school.
5. Evaluate the appropriateness of the task to determine: (a) if the task is too difficult and (b) if the length of time scheduled for the task is appropriate.
6. Demonstrate appropriate ways to respond to constructive criticism.
7. Try various groupings in order to determine the situation in which the student is most comfortable.
8. Provide the student with positive feedback which indicates he/she is successful, competent, important, valuable, etc.
9. Provide the student with many social and academic successes.
10. Assess the appropriateness of the social situation in relation to the student's ability to function successfully.
11. Structure the environment in such a way that the teacher is the only one providing constructive criticism. As the student learns to accept constructive criticism from the teacher, allow input from others.
12. Provide constructive criticism in private.
13. Provide constructive criticism equally to all members of the class.
14. Provide constructive criticism when the student is most likely to demonstrate an appropriate response.
15. Make certain that positive reinforcement is not inadvertently given for inappropriate behavior (e.g., lowering expectations because the student becomes upset when criticism is delivered).
16. Make certain the student receives adequate, positive reinforcement whenever he/she is behaving in an appropriate manner.
17. Assess criticism to make certain it is constructive and positive.
18. Have the student question anything he/she does not understand while performing assignments.
19. Encourage the student to check and correct his/her own work.
20. Explain to the student that constructive criticism is meant to be helpful, not threatening.
21. Reduce the emphasis on competition and perfection. A highly competitive atmosphere or repeated failure may cause the student to react in inappropriate ways to constructive criticism from others.
22. Make the necessary adjustments in the environment to prevent the student from experiencing stress, frustration, anger, etc.