INDIRECT PREFERENCE ASSESSMENTS

WHAT IS IT? Identifies objects, items, or activities that are reinforcing or have been reinforcing in the past for individual learners.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
- Identify what a person prefers.
- Identify the preference value (high vs. low).
- Identifies conditions under which those preference value changes.
- Gives direct feedback from the student’s perspective.
- A reinforcement program will not be successful unless the learner is highly motivated by the reinforcers.

WHEN CAN IT BE USED?
- Anyone can administer the survey or the student can take it on their own.
- When students do no respond to rewards or cannot express to which item they would like to work.
- When nothing seems to motivate the student.
- When a student is disinterested in school work, following directives, rules, expectations, etc.
- As part of developing a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?
- Interview- Ask the participant open ended, choice format, and rank ordering questions. Ask parents, family members, teachers, staff and other caregivers if the child cannot tell you. It is also a good idea to verify the information the caregiver gave you.
- Choice- Offer the student a choice before starting a task. “When you finish ______ what do you want to do?” You can use verbal responses or have them picked from pictures or a list.
- Rank Order- have participants rank items on a list from most preferred to least preferred.
- Observation- Place the child in an environment with many potential reinforcers available and observe him. The item the student chooses might serve as reinforcers.

REFERENCES