

The background features a dark, textured surface, possibly a fabric or paper, with numerous thin, golden threads scattered across it. Small, spherical golden beads are interspersed among the threads, some appearing to be attached to them. The overall effect is a complex, organic, and somewhat chaotic pattern of light against a dark background.

# Troubleshooting Reinforcement

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# Overview

Define Reinforcement

Necessary Components of Reinforcement

Where it “falls apart”

Checklist of strategies to try



Why Do You....

# We Usually Get a Pay Off

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Get Something

- Positive Reinforcement

Get Away From Something

- Negative Reinforcement
-

# Reinforcement

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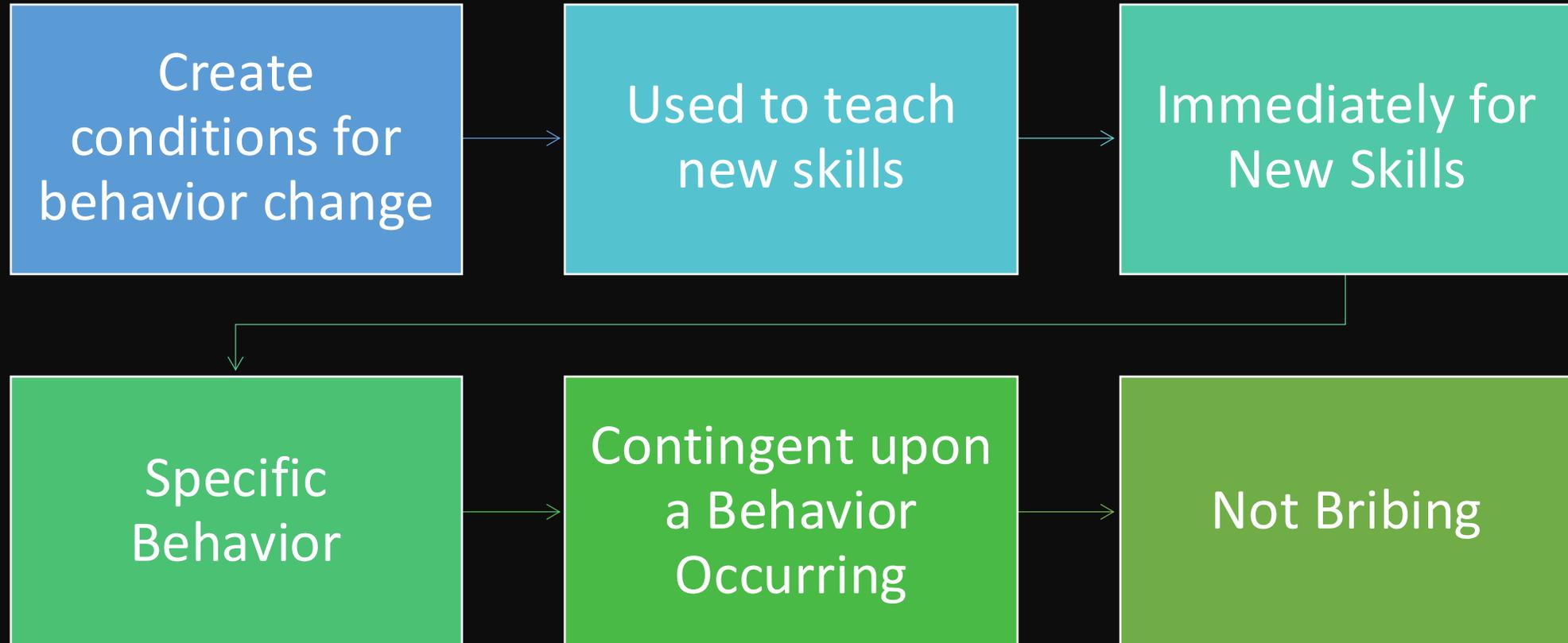
Positive  
Reinforcement

- Something Added to increase a behavior

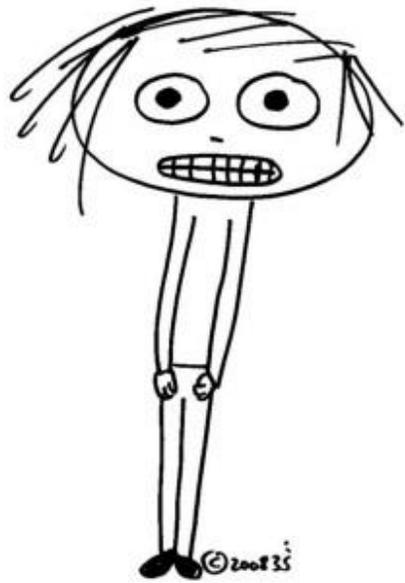
Negative  
Reinforcement

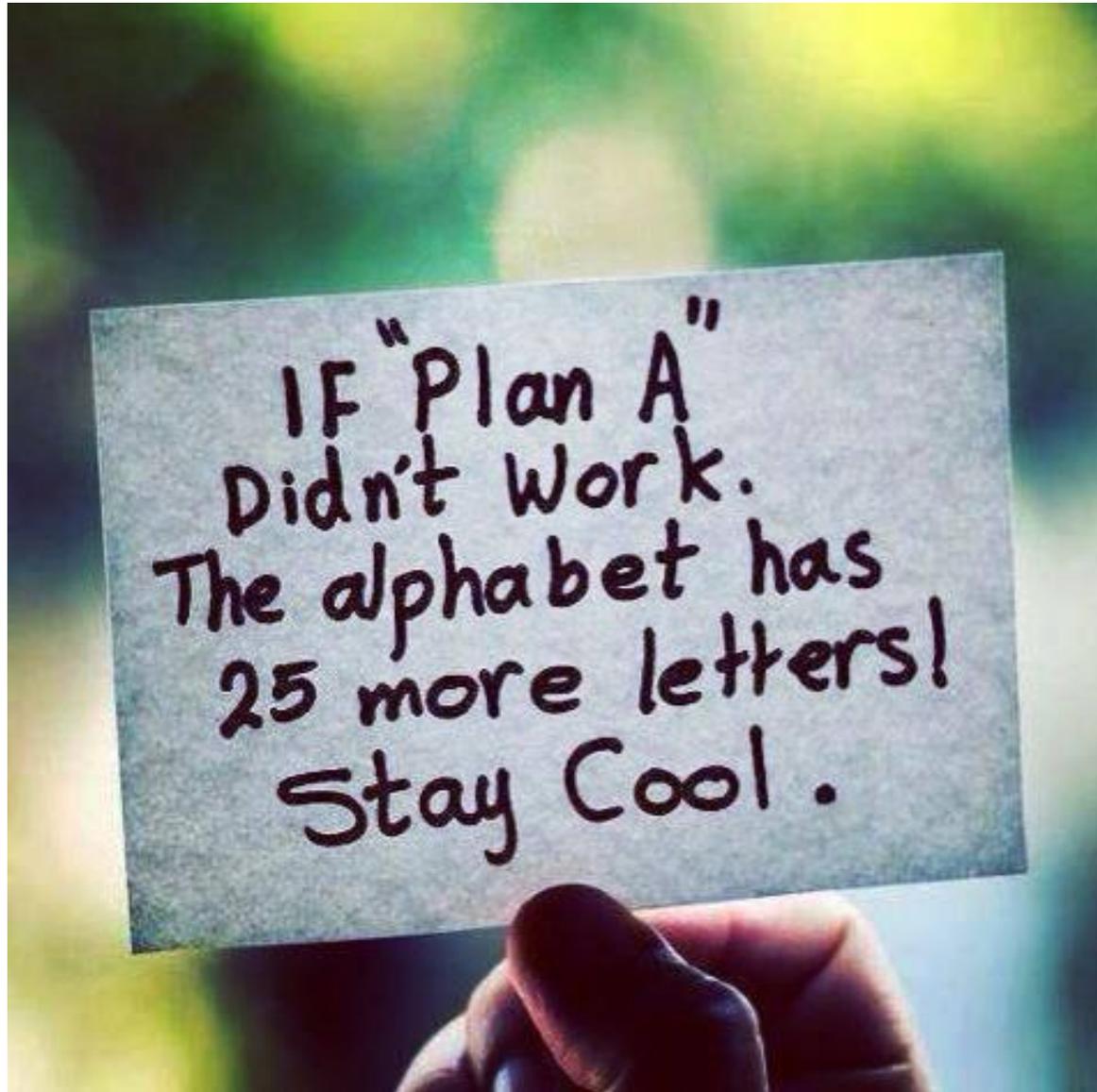
- Something Taken away to increase a behavior
-

# Reinforcement



TRIED TO  
THINK POSITIVE  
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK,





IF "Plan A"  
Didn't work.  
The alphabet has  
25 more letters!  
Stay Cool.

# Where Does Reinforcement Fall Apart?

- Preference Assessment
- Powerful Reinforcers
- Non-contingent Reinforcement
- Schedule of Reinforcement
- Data Collection





# Preference Assessment

- Observation
- Parent / Teacher Interviews
- Ask the Student
- Paired Choice
- Can Change over time



## Preference Assessment Research

- Survey with Words Only: Good at identifying preferred items
- Survey with Words and Pictures: Better at identifying preferred and non-preferred (Northrup et al., 1996)



# Powerful Reinforcers

- Too Powerful
- Not Powerful Enough
- Changes
- Not Enough Reinforcers
- Reinforcer Not Allowed

# Powerful Reinforcers

## PROBLEMS

- Too Powerful
- Not Powerful Enough
- Changes
- Not Enough Reinforcers
- Reinforcer Not Allowed

## SOLUTIONS

- Reinforcer Assessment
- Pair with Other Reinforcers
- Remove Reinforcer if Too Powerful
- Offer Choice
- Remove Systemic Barrier

# Non-Contingent Reinforcement



- Routine
- Different Settings
- Different Expectations
- Peers
- Life/Hard Choices
- Satiation

# Non-Contingent Reinforcement

## Solutions

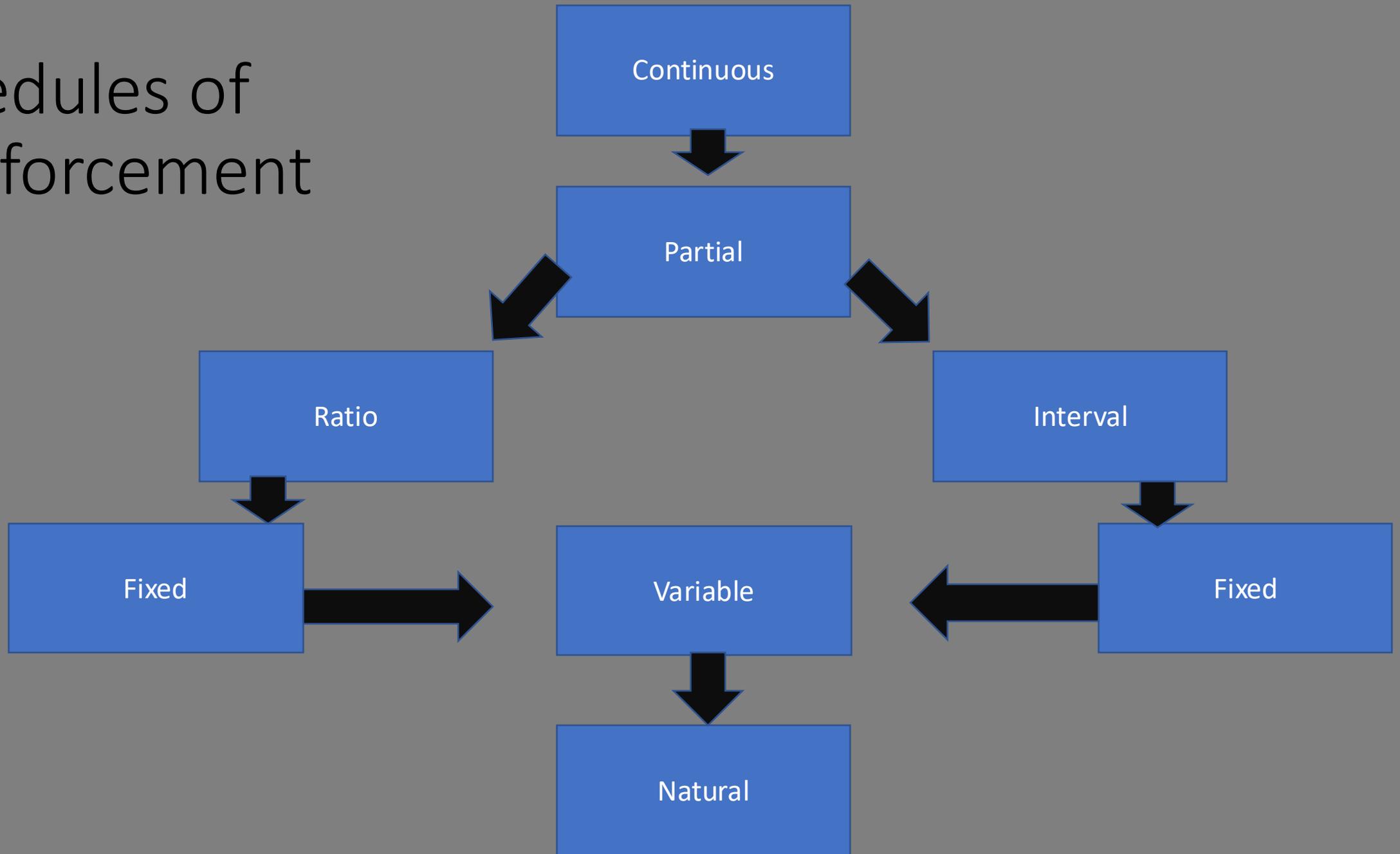
- Change Routine (Premack)
- Plan Ahead in Each Setting
- Communicate
- Teach Peers/Seating Changes
- Be conscious about these choices
  - Focus on Long Term Outcome



# Discussion



# Schedules of Reinforcement



# Schedules of Reinforcement

- Problems:
  - Not Frequent enough for initial skills
  - Not Systematic in Fading
  - Forget to take/use data
  - Wait to long (Tokens)
  - Based on Teacher Need not student need
  - Universal rather than Individualized

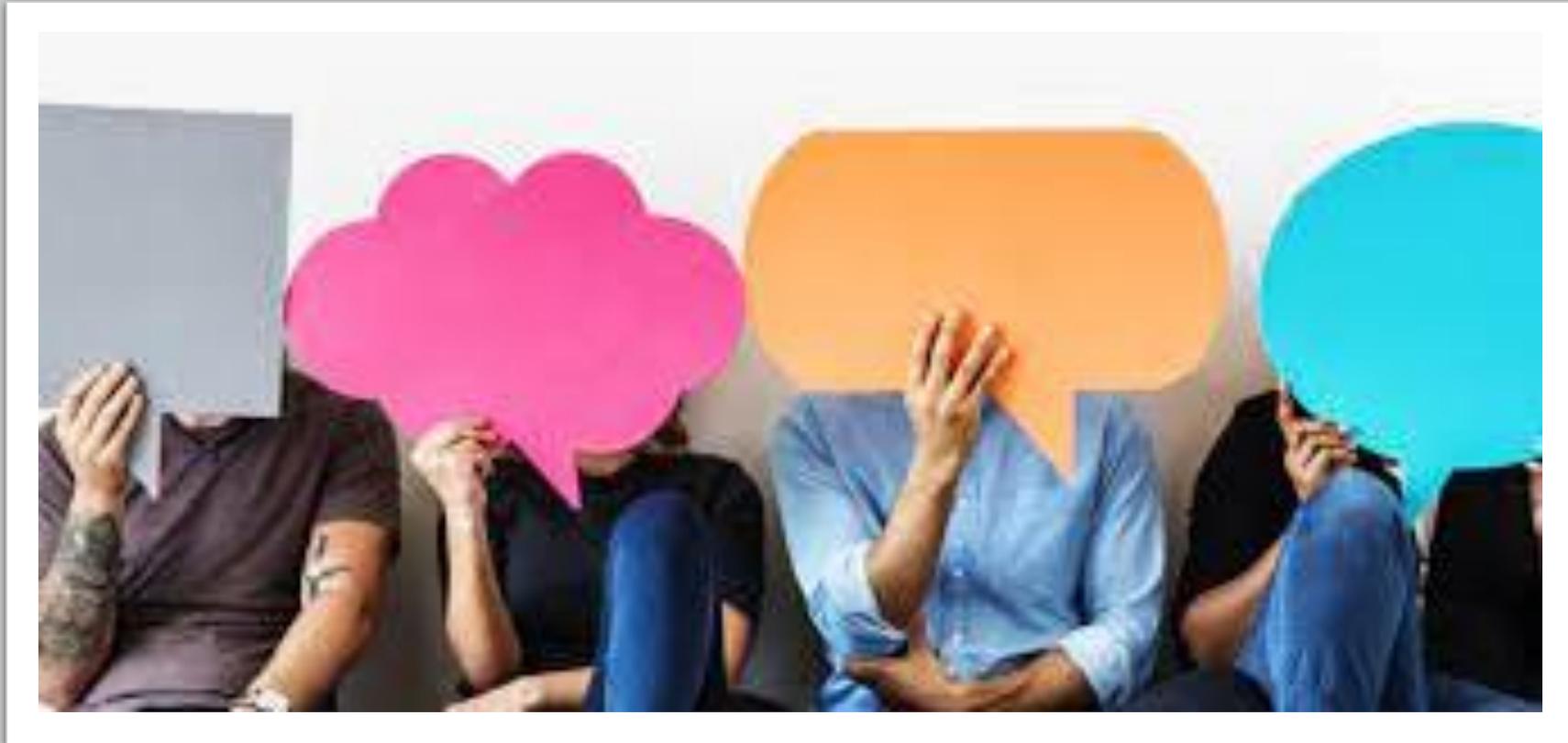
# Schedules of Reinforcement

## Problems:

- Not Frequent enough for initial skills
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## Solutions

- Develop a Plan
- Use Data
- Individualize
- Revise as Needed
- Work Fade



Discussion

# Data Collection

- Who
  - Someone Responsible
- What
  - Behavior
  - Reinforcer Assessment
  - Reinforcer Selection/Administration

# Data Collection

- When
  - Targeted time
- Where
  - Anywhere behavior occurs
- How
  - Paper
  - Online
- Why
  - Track Progress
  - Fidelity



What Do You See  
Happening in Your  
Experience?



**IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN**

**YOU PLAN TO FAIL**



# Contact Us

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