Tip Sheets

Maintenance and Generalization

What is meant by maintenance and generalization?

- Maintenance and generalization refer to the process of ensuring that behaviors learned in a controlled setting are maintained and generalized to real-world situations.

Why do maintenance and generalization need to be programmed into an intervention plan?

- Maintenance and generalization are essential to ensure that the targeted behaviors are not only maintained in the intervention setting but also generalize to other contexts.

How do I incorporate goals of maintenance and generalization into an intervention plan?

- Incorporating maintenance and generalization goals into an intervention plan involves designing activities that are similar to the intervention but in different settings or with different individuals.

With these guidelines, what are the critical considerations when designing behavioral maintenance and generalization goals and objectives?

References

This Positive Approaches to Young Children who Engage in Challenging Behavior Tip Sheet has been developed to assist teachers and parents in providing the best possible educational opportunities to students in their home and classroom. This Tip Sheet was published by the Center for Early Education and Development, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and was co-authored by Joe Retchie, Ph.D., Carol Davis, Ph.D., Shelley Neilsen, Ph.D., and Lillian Duran, Graduate Research Assistant with the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota. For additional tip sheets and our informational series “Questions About Kids;” please see the CEED web site at http://education.umn.edu/ceed/publications.

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