Samples of Functions Using an ABC Chart

Scenario of Socially Mediated Positive Reinforcement – Attention to Get Tangible

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Antecedent (A) 🡪 | Behavior (B) 🡪 | Consequence (C) | Hypothesis/ Possible Function |
| Child asks for snack and parent says no   | Child cries for 5+ minutes | Parent gives child snack (which ends the crying) | Socially mediated positive reinforcement;reinforcement in the form of attention to get tangible item (the snack); since crying for 5 min. leads to getting the snack |

 Scenario of Socially Mediated Negative Reinforcement

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Antecedent (A) 🡪 | Behavior (B) 🡪 | Consequence (C) | Hypothesis/ Possible Function |
| Mom sits child in car seat to go to school   | Child kicks and screams, takes off seatbelt | Mom takes child out of car and back in the house to calm down, delaying school or not going at all | Socially mediated negative reinforcement  |

Scenario of Automatic Reinforcement

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Antecedent (A) 🡪 | Behavior (B) 🡪 | Consequence (C) | Hypothesis/ Possible Function |
| Across all settings, with and without family members in the room   | Child spins in circles and looks at ceiling fan | Child continues the behavior | Automatic positive reinforcement (it occurs with and without others in the room so no one is reinforcing it) |