Samples of Functions Using an ABC Chart

Scenario of Socially Mediated Positive Reinforcement – Attention to Get Tangible

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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) |