

Goal Setting: Defining and Teaching Classroom Rules

Using the table below, list the instructional time for which your goal will be set, as well as the number of reinforcements you want to provide. Next, list the specific rules you will reinforce in the "Rules to Reinforce" section. When you reinforce rule-following behavior during the allocated instructional period, place a tally in the appropriate section for good or bad behavior.*

*I will give more attention to students following the rules than students not following the rules.

Goal:

During I will provide praise statements for rule-following behavior.

Simple Data ^[1]

Rules to reinforce	Praise of appropriate rule-following behavior	Redirection of rule violation

Did I meet my goal?	Yes	No
If YES, what went well?	If NO, what were the challenges?	

How will I meet the goal next time?

^[1] Using Simple Data

During the time you have identified to reinforce the rules, keep this form close to you (perhaps on a clipboard that you can readily access). Each time you provide praise for rule-following behavior, make a tally in the appropriate column. Then, at the end of that time period, use this simple data to determine if you met your goal.

If you met your goal

Give yourself some praise! Keep it up. Maybe even increase your goal to provide more praise next time or increase your use of acknowledging behavior for rule-following only, and not for rule violations.

If you did not meet your goal

Reflect on any challenges that you had. Determine how to overcome the challenges and give it another try. Meeting with your CCU coach to problem solve can be helpful, as well.

Challenges	Tips from the Field
<p>“ <i>My students didn't engage in enough appropriate behavior that I can reinforce.</i> ”</p>	<p>Reteach the rules for the classroom. Then, prompt the students by telling them you will be looking for good examples of following the rules. Then, pay close attention to any students who follow the rules, and give them praise (see Using Behavior-specific Praise).</p>
<p>“ <i>It was hard to remember to praise students for rule-following behavior.</i> ”</p>	<p>One way to overcome this challenge is to develop a prompt that helps you remember. This might be a written note to yourself placed in a section of the room you see often.</p> <p>Example: <i>You may want to place a reminder in the back of the room or near the clock, where you typically may look during instruction, that reminds you to look around the room and find examples of rule-following behavior.</i></p>
<p>“ <i>It's a lot easier to redirect students by referencing the rules when students are misbehaving.</i> ”</p>	<p>You may want to actively try to ignore behaviors that are not dangerous or overly disruptive to help reduce the number of reprimands you provide.</p>