Effective Classroom Strategies for Students with Disabilities

Strategy 10: Replacement Behaviors
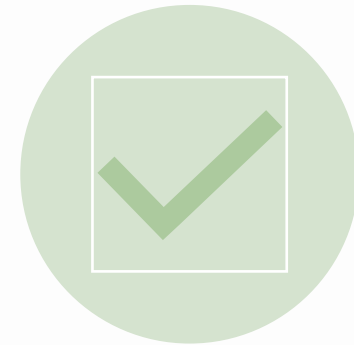
What are Replacement Behaviors?

A positive, appropriate behavior that can be taught to replace the target behavior. It should serve the same function as the behavior targeted for reduction.

Functionally equivalent

Socially Valued

Achievable

Why are Replacement Behaviors Important?

Legal Foundation

707 KAR 1:320, Section 5 (2) (a)

Behavioral Perspective

Student- Centered Outcomes

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How to Choose a Replacement Behavior

1. Identify the function	2. Choose a replacement behavior:
▼	▼
Escape	Meets the same need
▼	▼
Attention	Developmentally appropriate
▼	▼
Sensory	Easier and more effective
▼	
Access	

How to Teach Replacement Behaviors

Explicit Instruction

Practice Opportunities

Reinforcement

Consistency

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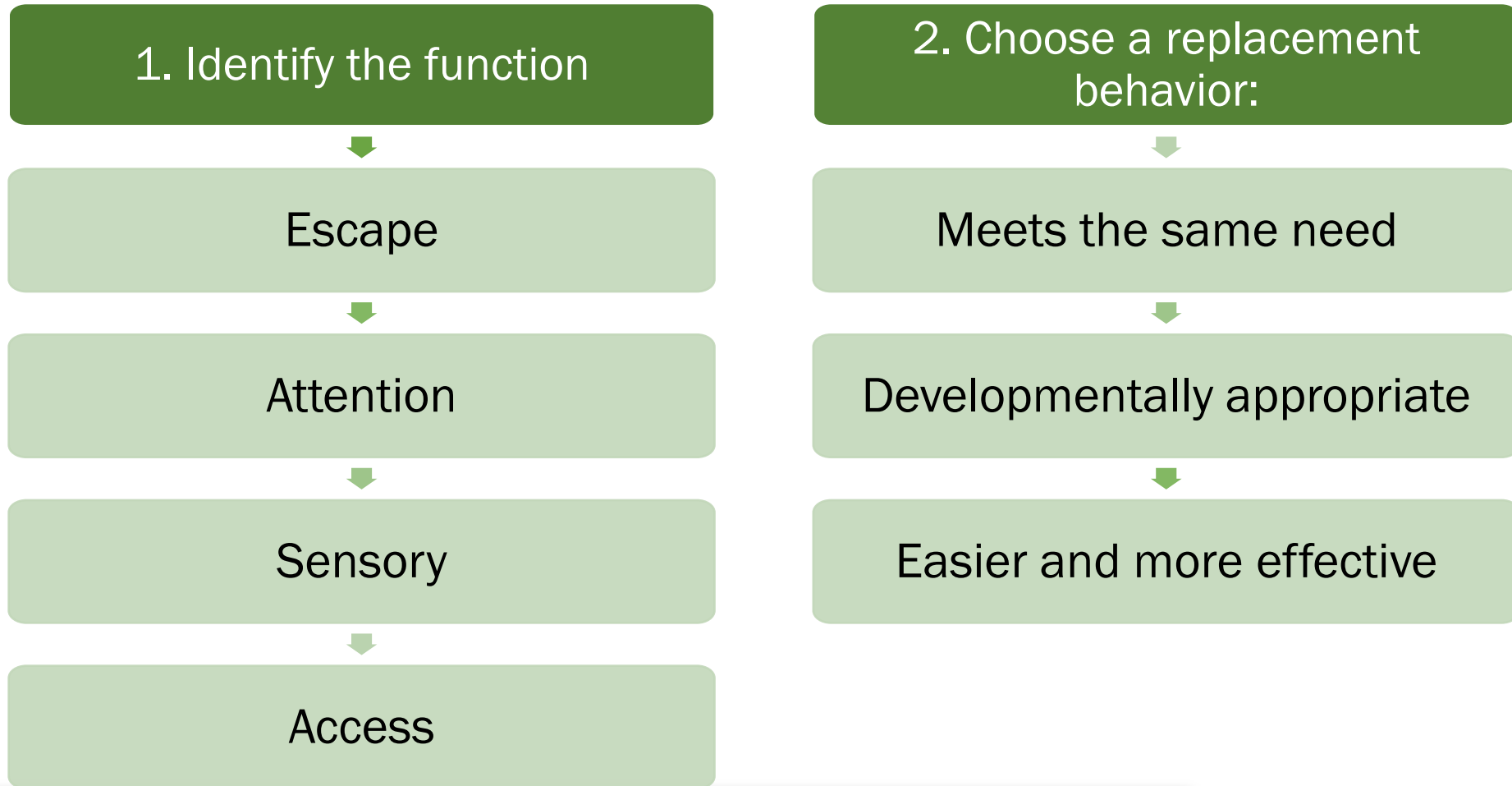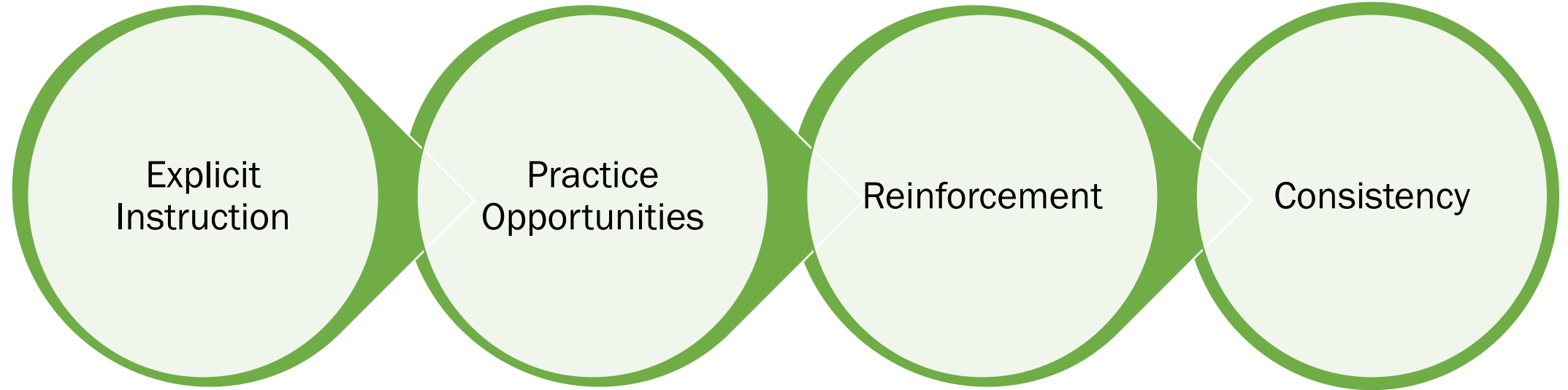
Skill Deficit

Teach and Practice

Performance Deficit

Motivate, Reinforce, and Provide Consistency

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Replacement Behaviors by Function

Function	Target Behavior: Elopement	Sample Replacement Behaviors
Attention	The student elopes to elicit engagement and connection with staff	Teach student to: • Raise hand to get attention • Request to play a game with a preferred adult or peer
Escape	The student elopes to get out of a task that is too difficult, easy, or not motivating.	Teach student to: • Request a break • Request help • Use a reinforcement system
Sensory	The student elopes to seek movement	Teach student to: • Request a movement break • Request the use of sensory tools
Tangible	The student elopes to get access to an object, activity, person or room.	Teach student to: • Request the item using functional communication training.

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Key Takeaways

Replacement behaviors:

| are an important positive behavior support. | must serve the same function as the behavior you want to reduce. | should be appropriate, effective, and teachable. | are maintained through reinforcement and consistency. |

Additional Resources

- Use EXT [Extinction]: Using PP [Prompting] to Teach Replacement Behavior – AFIRM
- Monitor FBA [Functional Behavior Assessment]: Replacement Behaviors – AFIRM
- IRIS Center: Replacement Behaviors

- Virtual Strategies Toolkit: Replacement Behaviors
- Behavioral Intervention Plans (Elementary): Developing a Plan to Address Student Behavior
- Behavioral Intervention Plans (Secondary): Developing a Plan to Address Student Behavior

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