

Schedules of Reinforcement



Type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Fixed Ratio (FR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Produce high rate ~Often very little hesitation when responding ~Easy to implement consistently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Post-reinforcement pause
Variable Ratio (VR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Produces steady rates ~Often quick rates ~No post-reinforcement pause 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Requires careful planning and creative thinking in the natural setting
Fixed Interval (FI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Easy to implement consistently ~Does not require staff to watch the child's responding during interval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Produces a scalloped effect in responding
Variable Interval (VI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Produces stable, steady rates ~No post-reinforcement pause ~Does not require staff to watch the child's responding during the interval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Requires careful planning and creative thinking in the natural setting ~Produces low to moderate rates of responding

1

FIXED RATIO

Reinforcement after a predetermined number of responses

2

VARIABLE RATIO

Reinforcement after an average number of responses

3

FIXED INTERVAL

Reinforcement after the first response after a predetermined amount of time

4

VARIABLE INTERVAL

Reinforcement after the first response after a predetermined average amount of time