

What a Token Board Requires:

1. A clear, observable, and measurable objective of what task(s) are required to be completed by the student in order to earn each token
2. A clear objective of how many tokens must be earned in order for a student to exchange them for other backup reinforcers (items, activities, breaks, speciality toys and activities)
3. Tokens that hold value for the student- this may require pairing each token with some other known reinforcing item (like an edible or praise) so that the student learns to associate the token with something they like and eventually will work for the tokens alone in order to earn them and exchange them
4. A list of what items, foods, activities, etc. that your learner enjoys and might work for
 - *Here are some examples of what might be reinforcing:
 - a. Specific toy (trains, puzzles, cars, fidgets, legos, etc)
 - b. Playground time
 - c. Walks around the school/Break from work
 - d. Lunch with the teacher
 - e. Lunch outside
 - f. Candy or other preferred foods
 - g. iPad/Computer
5. **CONSISTENCY-** The effectiveness of a token board is directly related to how consistently it is implemented. The student must come to learn that following directions and completing work result in earning tokens and that tokens hold value because they are able to be exchanged for backup reinforcers. If a student completes work, but is not consistently earning tokens then the tokens will lose their value and the intervention will not be as effective. If one teacher consistently uses the board, but others do not, the effectiveness of the intervention will be increase with the teacher that uses it and decreases with those that do not.

* Remember, you are building trust with your learner as you begin this intervention so that later it can be faded and work demands can be increased before tokens are given- but it takes time and patience.

Pros and Cons of Token Boards

PROS

- Evidenced-based intervention for a wide range of learners
- Provides visual support for task demands
- Provides clarity for student expectations and what is required in order to obtain reinforcement

CONS

- Requires material creation and preparation
- Requires time to design and implement a token economy system
- Often requires that other classroom staff are trained on how the token board will be used
- Requires time to consistently teach the student the contingency