

Appendix G – Expanding your Student’s Reinforcer Repertoire

Reinforcers can lose their reinforcing value if they are overused. It is important to consider a variety of reinforcers when working with students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Observe or ask your student what it is about their existing reinforcers that they like.

The following chart gives examples of reinforcers and other items that may share similar qualities.

Item/Activity	What does the student enjoy about the item/activity?	Other similar options
Koosh Ball	Texture	Play doh, bean bags, sponge, foam, goop, cornstarch & water, etc.
Spinning Top	Spinning motion and light	Kaleidoscope, disco ball, yo-yo with light, koosh ball with light, pin wheel, etc.
Strawberry Shortcake doll	Smell (Strawberry)	Lotion, soap, smelly stickers, smelly markers, etc.
Tickles	Soft touch	Feather, cotton ball, pompom, string, stuffed animal, etc.
Shape Sorter	Shapes	Beads, puzzles, foam craft pieces, stickers, perfection game, etc.
Stamps	Cause & effect	Stamp markers, tattoos, hole punch, etc.
Drawing	Drawing stick people	Paper & crayons, Aqua doodle, Mini chalkboard, White board, Magna doodle, etc.
Pin Wheel	Spinning	Beyblades, top, light chaser, spinning lollipop, etc.
Building Blocks	Building	Lego, magnetix, k'nex, models, etc.
Cause and effect musical toys	Listening to music	MP3/Ipod, computer, DVD, etc.
Bubbles	Popping them	Gazillion bubbles machine, touchable bubbles, bubble wrap packing supply, etc.
String	Twirling around fingers	Pompoms, doll with stringy hair, koosh ball (spiky), ribbon, my little pony, etc.
Running	Movement	Taking attendance to office, passing out worksheets, collecting worksheets, delivery messages, playing tag in gym, run on treadmill, etc.
Talking about spaceships	Spaceships	Model spaceship, worksheet about space, teach the class about spaceship, etc.
Fingerpaint	Texture	Shaving cream, rice bins, cornstarch & water, playdoh, etc.
Hanging out with friends	Social	Group work, reading buddies, help peers with areas of interest, early lunch with a friend, etc.