

Activity Sequencing & Choice

- The other effective classroom strategies address increasing instructional time and student engagement.
- **Motivation** can be a barrier to engagement for some students.
- For students who *can do* the work but choose *not to do it*, activity sequencing and choice strategies may be helpful.

Offering choice and activity sequencing are **preventive** (antecedent interventions) because they are implemented before problem behaviors occur. (Kern & State, 2009)

S E Q U E N C E

Choice



Activity Sequencing and Choice

- Increases student engagement with learning and task completion through motivation
- Decreases disruptive behavior
- Improves student perceptions of assignments previously considered too difficult
- Helps build positive adult-student relationships

SEQUENCE *Choice*

Activity Sequencing



VS



- **Task Interspersal**
 - Mingling additional briefer (less time-consuming) problems with target (more time-consuming) problems

Kern & Clemens, 2007;
Skinner, Hurst, Teeples, & Meadows, 2002

Activity Sequencing

- **Behavioral Momentum**

- Delivering three to five brief, simple requests (High_p) prior to a difficult request (Low_p).



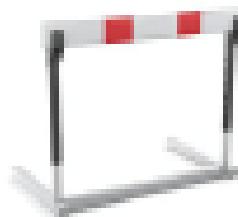
High_p



High_p



High_p



Low_p

Maze et al., 1988; Singer, Singer, & Horner, 1987;
Lee & Laspe, 2003



Strategies for Offering Choice

Examples of classwide choice:

- *Type* of task or activity
- *Order* or sequence of tasks
- Kinds of *materials* that will be used
- *Whom* to work with
- *Place* to work
- Choice of how to use *time*



Steps for Using Choice in the Classroom

- 1) Create a menu of choices you would be willing to provide to students.
- 2) Look through your choice menu before planning each lesson.
- 3) Decide what types of choice are appropriate for the lesson and where they fit best in the lesson.
- 4) Provide choices as planned while teaching the lesson.
- 5) Solicit student feedback and input.

(Kern and State, 2009, p. 5)

A Word of Caution About Choices

Be sure your choice is a **choice** not a **threat or ultimatum** intended as a consequence.

These are NOT Choices to Offer:

- Would you like to do your work here or go to the office?
- Do you want to do your work now or at recess?

Choice