Consequence Maps or Contingency Maps

Consequence or Contingency Maps are visual supports that give individuals concrete information concerning the consequences of behavioral choices. This strategy falls into two evidence-based interventions as outlined by the Missouri Autism Guidelines Initiative or MAGI. The Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guide to Evidence-based Interventions lists Antecedent Package and Visual Supports as effective evidence based interventions. Presentation of the Consequence or Contingency Map prior to challenging behaviors may assist in preventing the behavior from occurring, because the individual knows the result of his or her choices ahead of time. The Maps are presented visually, either through the use of pictures or words, so this strategy also falls under the effective intervention category as listed in the MAGI.

The Maps typically demonstrate two or more behavioral tracks, one showing the consequence of desired behavior, and the other showing the result of challenging behavior. There may be a third track, showing an alternate to the challenging behavior that meets the same function as the less desired behavior.

Here are two examples:

**Map Showing Two Tracks:** Sam does not like being assisted when moving from class to class. He likes to go places in his preschool all by himself. (The Map is shown using words, but this preschooler needs simple pictures for his Map to be meaningful to him.)
Map Showing Three Tracks: Completion of a functional behavior assessment (FBA) indicates the function of Mia’s challenging behavior is avoidance of pencil/paper tasks. The teacher knows if he gives Mia a break after the assignment, she has avoided the work briefly and is more likely to eventually complete it.

These Maps are presented to individuals prior to the occurrence of challenging behavior and can be used in conjunction with other positive behavior support strategies.

Here are some resources to assist in the development Consequence or Contingency Maps.

**Behavior Mapping: A visual Strategy for Teaching Appropriate Behavior to Individuals with Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders** by Amy Buie and published by AAPC ([www.aapcpublishing.net](http://www.aapcpublishing.net)).


**Behavior Contingency Maps** by Sasha Hallagen, creator of The Autism Helper ([www.autismhelper.com](http://www.autismhelper.com)) website. Her resource is available for download from Teachers Pay Teachers ([www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com)). Note: This resource includes several premade Maps for challenges common to individuals in schools. There are also blank Maps with pictures that can be velcroed to quickly make Maps specific to an individual.

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