



Dear Parent(s):

As you are supporting and facilitating your child’s learning, here’s a chart contrasting **Positive Reinforcement vs. Bribery**. Noting and being mindful of the difference will assist you towards making your child more successful acquiring desired behaviors and skills!!!

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT	BRIBERY
Adult is in control	Child is in control
Used to teach/practice desired behavior	Used to stop inappropriate behavior
Desired behavior is identified prior to the situation occurring (i.e., “We must have a quiet voice in the store.”)	Desired behavior is not identified prior to the situation (i.e. “Time to go to the store.”)
Reward is identified prior to entering the situation and is based on child’s success with the behavioral expectation (i.e. “If you have a quiet voice in the store, you can play on your I-pad in the car on the way home.”)	No reward is identified prior. Instead, the reward is only identified once the child begins having undesired behavior (i.e. “If you stop screaming, I’ll let you play on the I-pad on the way home.”)
The parent provides appropriate reward choices from which the child can choose to motivate desired behavior	The child chooses what they want, regardless of the appropriateness
Reward is not available if problem behavior occurs	Reward is not available if desired behavior occurs
Reward is provided immediately following the child’s success with the desired behavior (i.e. “You had such a quiet voice in the store! I’m so proud of you. Here’s your I-pad.”)	Reward is provided when problem behavior occurs (“if you will stop screaming, I’ll give you your I-pad.” Child stops. “Here.” Gives I-pad with a frustrated expression)
Child learns the importance of the desired behavior and is motivated to practice it	Child learns that problem behavior gets him/her what they want
Increases the chances of the child using the desired behavior in the future	Increases the chances of the child using problem behavior in the future
A teaching tool!!!! 	A quick fix 
Results in a happy parent who is motivated to take the child out in the community	Results in an unhappy parent who avoids taking their child out into the community