

# PUZZLE PICTURE

## Behavior Modification Tool

**Materials:** Photograph or print approximately 8" x 8", laminator, Tacky Glue, cardboard same size as picture.

**Know your student:** Help the student choose an image that is very reinforcing, (a sports figure, superhero, self-portrait, fire engine, a pet... whatever really excites him). Once you have narrowed down the subject, search Google Images and allow the student to select his favorite image to print.

### **Assemble the tool:**

- 1) Glue the image to a piece of thin cardboard (I use a file folder) to reinforce. Laminate the reinforced image and the piece of cardboard.
- 2) Cut the image into 2-6 pieces depending on the student. If the student requires frequent reinforcing, cut more pieces. I do not recommend cutting more than 6 pieces. They should be of equal size (cut image in half, then cut the halves into 3rds).
- 3) Coat back of image with Tacky Glue. Allow to dry.
- 4) Assemble the puzzle pieces onto the cardboard

**Using the tool:** Show the tool to your student. Discuss how much you both like the picture. Tell the student that you want to keep the puzzle perfect but if he does an undesirable behavior a piece will come off. Be specific and demonstrate what will happen. "If you throw your pencil, I will take a piece off." Remove a piece and place it on the back. Comment on how sad it is that the piece is missing. Then tell the student "If you pick up your pencil I will put it back on!" If the student complies, give some positive verbal reinforcement and show the picture to him.

With the image already in place remove and replace pieces depending on a desired or undesired behavior. *Pieces should be removed and replaced rapidly.* If the student does not do the desired behavior after the first piece is removed, make your request again "Pick up your pencil." If they do not comply remove another piece. Be sure to draw the student's attention to their picture. Continue to remove pieces until you get the desired behavior. As soon as the student complies replace a piece, and give verbal praise, again directing their attention to the

image. If you had to remove several pieces to get the desired behavior, you can replace pieces with each step of positive behavior. “Thank you for picking up your pencil. You get a puzzle piece back! Come sit down. Good job coming back to your seat! I will put another piece of your puzzle back! Look how nice your puzzle looks again!”

Pieces that are removed are “stored” on the back of the cardboard. until they are put back on the puzzle.

The goal is to have the puzzle complete at the end of a given period (seatwork, lining up etc.). Having the puzzle complete is often sufficient reinforcement for the student, but otherwise the student can earn an additional predetermined reward.

**Why it works:** I always had great success with this tool. Students seem very invested in keeping their picture complete, and would generally correct their behavior immediately to have a piece reinstated. The sound of the puzzle piece being removed from the cardboard adds an extra bit of power to the visual effect of it being removed.

**Alternate method:** This tool can also be used starting with all the pieces off, and the student builds the puzzle with each desired behavior. Pieces are still removed for undesired behaviors.

Both methods work well, however this second method often works better for students who require momentum to get positive behaviors going. Tell the student that they are going to make their puzzle of Batman (for example). As soon as the student performs a desired behavior place a recognizable piece of the puzzle on the front of the board and state “Great job coming to your seat! I’m putting a piece of your puzzle on. Look! It’s Batman’s head!”

**Note:** Tacky Glue may need to be reapplied periodically. Velcro can also be used, but I prefer Tacky Glue because the image lays flatter on the cardboard and therefore looks better when complete.

**GOOD LUCK!**