

Line Up Balls

A strategy for encouraging children to line up the first time asked.



In my classroom, I was having a problem with students lining up at the door in a timely manner when I asked them. Students would seem to ignore my instruction, despite auditory cues in the form of a timer, as well as transition warnings provided in advance. Being a behavior analyst, I wanted to put a form of reinforcement/reward in place to encourage the lining-up behavior. I purchased some of these small “porcupine balls,” like the ones featured below.



[Mini Porcupine Balls](#)

Fun Express

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or Buy New \$9.99



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[1 1/4\" Porcupine Balls](#)

Century Novelty

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[2 1/4\" Porcupine Ball](#)

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Shortly before line up time, I told the students that if they lined up when the timer sounded, and when I asked them to, they would get to hold one of the “line up balls” while they walked in the hallway to go back to their general education classroom. I thought that my problem then might be the students not wanting to return the balls to me when we got back to the classroom. So, I told them (in a really fun sounding tone of voice) that when we got back to their classroom, they would get to put the balls in my pocket. I demonstrated shoving the ball into my pocket very quickly, which they seemed to think was funny. I said, “Isn’t that cool?!” and they seemed really interested in putting it in my pocket. I’ve been using the system with three different groups of students (2 – 3 students per group, ages 4 – 8) and it has worked to encourage them to line up right away, and I’ve had no problems with the students putting the balls in my pocket when we get to their classrooms.

*If you purchase the balls from the links above, Amazon.com will donate a percentage of your purchase to **PositivelyAutism.com** to allow us to continue providing you with free resources. If you purchase, please keep in mind the size of the balls in terms of your classroom needs and any possible choking hazards. Thank you!*