

General Reciprocity

Remember, we said that intrinsic motivation is a big motivator as we get older. Well, it kind of changes. Instead of the task itself motivating someone, the motivation starts to come from IWAs' understanding of how the social world works. They might not be motivated to write a paragraph in English class just because it feels good, but they might write a paragraph in English class so that they will get out of trouble in math class. What? That doesn't make any sense. Don't worry. It doesn't make sense to an IWA either. Not when you say it that way. Let me say it in a different way. A student understands that if they pass their English class, it will have a positive effect on their life. Here is what IWAs know, but don't realize they know about "general reciprocity".

"General reciprocity" means that they do a "good deed" in society, because they know that they will someday get something they want in return from someone else. Notice that I said someday and someone. It is not a direct exchange like money, where you give someone something, and you get back something right away. It is more like when you give someone a pencil in the classroom. Think about how that system works. Let's say a person in the class asks for a pencil. You give it to him. Do you expect them to pay for it? No. Do you expect them to give it back? No. They might give it back, but it doesn't matter if they do or don't. Then, because of how that system works, if you ever need a pencil, you can ask someone near you for one, and expect them to give it to you. Notice, it does not need to be the same person. Well, IWAs use this system on a much larger scale. They use it throughout their lives. So how does it work?

An example is when a two people are trying to decide what videogame to play. One person lets the other person choose. Why? Think of the pencil example. Why would he let the other person choose? Because, he knows that some other time he will be allowed to choose the game or have his way with something else. Letting friends choose a video game is just like the pencil exchange. It doesn't matter that you don't know when you are going to get something back. All that matters is that the more you give out, the more you will get back.

Worksheet 1
General Reciprocity

1. Name some specific good deeds you can do for your peers.

Letting him have his way

Standing up for him

Acting interested in what he has to say

2. Think of some things, activities, and favors you would like to get in return. Think of what a peer could give you. Remember, this is something they will give you at another time.

Activity 2 General Reciprocity with Peers

Preparation- We will make some “good deed” dollars using board game money. We will assign a color to each person, etc. Each person gets his own type of money. We will divide the money up **unevenly** between the participants. Some people will get more, and some will get less.

Action- Role-play a birthday party. Go through the whole event from people arriving to the party to people saying goodbye. Make sure the whole event is planned out on what is going to occur before the role-playing begins. Whose birthday is it, who is serving food, etc.

The Play- Each time a person does a good deed, you give him a dollar. Each time you do a good deed, they give you a dollar. The object is to see how many good deed dollars you can earn from other people through role playing, and to not have any of the good deed dollars left that you started with. Use the good deed worksheet to help you decide what good deeds to do.

Objective- The concept behind the “good deed” dollars is to make the concept of general reciprocity more tangible and understandable to those with Asperger’s Syndrome.

General Reciprocity with People in Authority

IWAs go around doing good deeds all day for people in authority. For example, if their mom asks them to pick up the dirty clothes in their bedroom, they will do it much of the time. They do it, not for a reward, instead, they do it because they know their parents will think that they are being good. They will keep doing these deeds until the parents come to a conclusion that “he is a good son.” Then, when he wants to stay up later than usual to play video games on another day, his parents will most likely let him. They let him because he is a “good son”. Can you think of some examples of good deeds you do for people in authority? You can do them in many environments.

There are four types of good people that we will focus on.

1. Good Son/Daughter
2. Good Student
3. Good Employee
4. Good Citizen

All four of these will help you to get what you want from their environments. What is it that you can get by being “good?” These are the things that people in authority (we will call them directors) will give you in return for being a good person.

- Favors: People in society will help you or grant you a request more often.
- Permission: You will be allowed to do what you want more often.
- Get out of Jail Free Card: You will get out of a punishment.
- Forgiveness: People will forgive you for things you do wrong.
- Noncompliance: people will allow you to say no to their request.
- Leeway: People will be more flexible in the tasks that they expect you to do.

Think of it as if you receive a “good-deed dollar” for each time you produce a good deed. Those dollars get put into their bank accounts when you earn them. Now, think of each environment as a store. You can spend your “good deed’ dollars at the store that corresponds.

Good Son bank account	Home Store
Good Student account	School Store
Good Employee account	Job Store
Good Citizen account	Community Store

With this system, you have to make a substantial deposit in your bank account before you can start spending. In other words, you have to do a lot of good deeds before directors will recognize your position as a good student, etc. Once they recognize you in that position, you will start to be able to use that position to receive permission etc.

An important thing to remember, is that you always have to have more money going into your account, then you do coming out. You have to constantly be increasing your balance in the account.

Activity 3 Balance Sheet

We will sit down and create a balance sheet for your “good deed” bank accounts. We will use these bank accounts in their respective environments to help keep track of your good deeds. This will help us to chart your current effectiveness in this system, and chart progress made in the future.

Activity 3
General Reciprocity with Directors

In your Observation Notebook, document how often IWAs follow the directions of a director without any reward. What is their emotional display when they do the task? Write down a list of the tasks they do. Take a tally of how often they comply with a direction. We will then discuss the frequency and type of compliancy.

Worksheet 2
General Reciprocity with Directors

1. Name some good deeds that you can do in each environment

At school

At home

In the community

At a job

Worksheet 3
General Reciprocity with Directors

With your agent, name some daily good deeds you can do for Directors

Now think of some daily good deeds you can do for your peers.

Think of some things, activities, and favors you would like to get in return. Think of what a peer could give you. What could a Director give you?

Activity 4 General Reciprocity with Directors

We will spend the day with your parents then do the same with your teacher.

We will give them a limitless supply of the good deed dollars. We will use your good deeds worksheet to decide on what good deeds you can do.

How can you respond to their directions so that you can get dollars?

Before we begin, we will sit down with each director to decide on some things you would like in exchange for doing the good deeds. We will use your worksheets to help you. How many good deed dollars would each thing, activity, and favor cost?

We will spend the day earning good deed dollars, seeing how many you can earn, and making decisions on how to spend them.

Activity 5
Applying General Reciprocity to Real Life

The directors in your life will all get familiarized with the exchange so that they can participate.

We will continue as in activity 4 on a daily basis with your directors.

After a week, instead of exchanging actual dollars, the directors will just keep track of what you've earned.

Finally, we want to come to the point, where "good Deed" dollars are not needed. We will expect that you will do the deeds with the knowledge that they will have a positive effect on your life.

Important to Remember

General reciprocity is an important part of functioning in our society. When you do things for the sake of the relationship, you are doing something for yourself as well. You are helping yourself function more easily on society. Remember the pencil analogy. If you participate in the general reciprocity system, life becomes easier for you.