When Has learning occurred? 3a

So when do you know if learning has occurred? When the individual consistently makes a response in the presence of a specific discriminative stimulus. This is called stimulus control. This is what you want as a teacher. We want our students to respond independently to a S-Dee or discriminative stimulus versus us having to prompt them to respond.

Terms to Know 3b

There are a couple terms to know that will help when progressing through the rest of this module. First, target stimuli. This is the S-Dee that is expected to ultimately control the occurrence of the behavior. It is the natural cue to respond. Another important term to know is controlling prompt. A controlling prompt is stimuli that are added to the target stimulus or after the target stimulus to help the student make the target response. It might be a physical prompt, or a verbal prompt, or a positional cue.

Add a Stimulus 3c

If the target stimulus does not control the behavior, it needs to be paired with a stimulus that does in order to develop stimulus control. This is called a prompt. For example, when shown cards with sight words and told “find the word house” the student does not select the word house. Then something is added to the flash card or task direction.