Operant Conditioning Worksheet

Instructions: For each scenario below, identify the type of operant conditioning being used: positive reinforcement (PR), negative reinforcement (NR), positive punishment (PP), or negative punishment (NP). Begin by "coding" each scenario as demonstrated in class:

B = behavior to be modified or being modified
↑ = increase in the behavior
↓ = decrease in the behavior
+ = positive
- = negative

Example: +↑B   PR

_____   _____ 1. A woman watching a football game offers her child candy to play quietly.

_____   _____ 2. At a party, a husband becomes sullen when his wife flirts with a colleague.

_____   _____ 3. Employee of the month gets a reserved parking space.

_____   _____ 4. A child is put in a chair facing the corner for misbehaving.

_____   _____ 5. A mother smiles when her child utters "Mama."

_____   _____ 6. A child receives $5 for earning good grades in school.

_____   _____ 7. A professor gives extra credit to students with perfect attendance.

_____   _____ 8. A rat presses a lever to terminate a shock.

_____   _____ 9. A wife is nagging her husband to take out the trash.

_____   _____ 10. A prisoner loses TV privileges for one week for a rule violation.

_____   _____ 11. Scolding a child for playing in the street.

_____   _____ 12. A child receives a spanking for biting her brother.

_____   _____ 13. Not allowing a teenager to attend a planned sleep-over after discovering a candy bar she had stolen from the store.

_____   _____ 14. A student is dropped from all courses after cheating on a test.

_____   _____ 15. A parent puts a quarter in a child's piggy bank for each "nice or helpful" gesture the child performs and removes a quarter for each "mean or selfish" gesture the child performs.