

Principles of Behaviour

For Primary and Preschool Teachers



By the end of this module, learners will:

- Understand the principles of behaviour
- Identify and understand the motivation
- Describe stimulus control
- Understand reinforcement strategies
- Decide on punishment and extinction methods

Background Principles of Behaviour: Law of Effect

Behaviours followed by positive outcomes are likely to be repeated.



Example: A child is praised for helping a classmate, increasing the likelihood of repeating the behaviour.

Operant Conditioning (B.F. Skinner)

- Reinforcement and punishment shape behaviours.

- Widely used in educational interventions for children with ASD.

Motivation in ABA

The drive to exhibit certain behaviours.

Two types of motivation:

Intrinsic:
Internal satisfaction
(e.g., reading for enjoyment)



Extrinsic:
External rewards
(e.g., stickers for good behaviour)



Motivation Operations:

- Establishing Operations (EO): Increases effectiveness of a stimulus as a reinforcer.
- Abolishing Operations (AO): Decreases the attractiveness of a stimulus as a reinforcer.

Example of Motivation in Action

Scenario: A child loses interest in tablet time as a reward.

Solution: Introduce new, preferred activities to re-motivate.

Stimulus Control

- A stimulus evokes a particular behaviour due to reinforcement history.

Key Terms:

- Discriminative Stimulus: Encourages a behaviour.
- S-delta: Signals that a behaviour is not encouraged.

Stimulus Control Example

- Scenario: Visual and auditory cues for transition times.

- Application: Using timers and songs to signal transitions, helping children prepare and reducing anxiety.

Reinforcement

Positive Reinforcement:
Adding a positive stimulus to increase behaviour.



Negative Reinforcement:
Removing an aversive stimulus to increase behaviour.

Reinforcement Example

- -Scenario: Increasing social interaction
- Application: Verbal praise and small rewards reinforce appropriate social interactions.

Rules for Using Reinforcement

Immediate reinforcement

- Enthusiastic delivery
- Pair material reinforcers with verbal praise
- Avoid making reinforcers freely available
- Gradually fade out reinforcement for learned skills

Punishment

Reducing behaviour by introducing or removing stimuli.

- Types:
 - Positive Punishment: Adding an aversive consequence.
 - Negative Punishment: Removing a desired stimulus.

Ethical Use of Punishment

Use

- Use only when positive reinforcement fails.

Ensure

- Ensure punishment is proportional and minimal.

Pair

- Always pair with teaching appropriate behaviours.

Extinction

- Gradually decreasing unwanted behaviour by removing reinforcement.
- Consistency is key.
- Teach alternative behaviours.

Extinction Example

- Scenario: A child screams for attention.
- Solution: The teacher stops reacting to the screaming but reinforces quieter behaviour.

Practice

- Choose a behaviour you want to increase.
- Apply the principles of motivation, stimulus control, and reinforcement.

Summary of Key Points

- Motivation: Drives behaviour via establishing and abolishing operations.
- Reinforcement: Increases desired behaviours.
- Stimulus Control: Cues and reinforces behaviours.
- Punishment: Reduces behaviours, but must be used cautiously.
- Extinction: Decreases behaviours by removing reinforcement.

Conclusion and Q&A

Questions?





THANK YOU

