



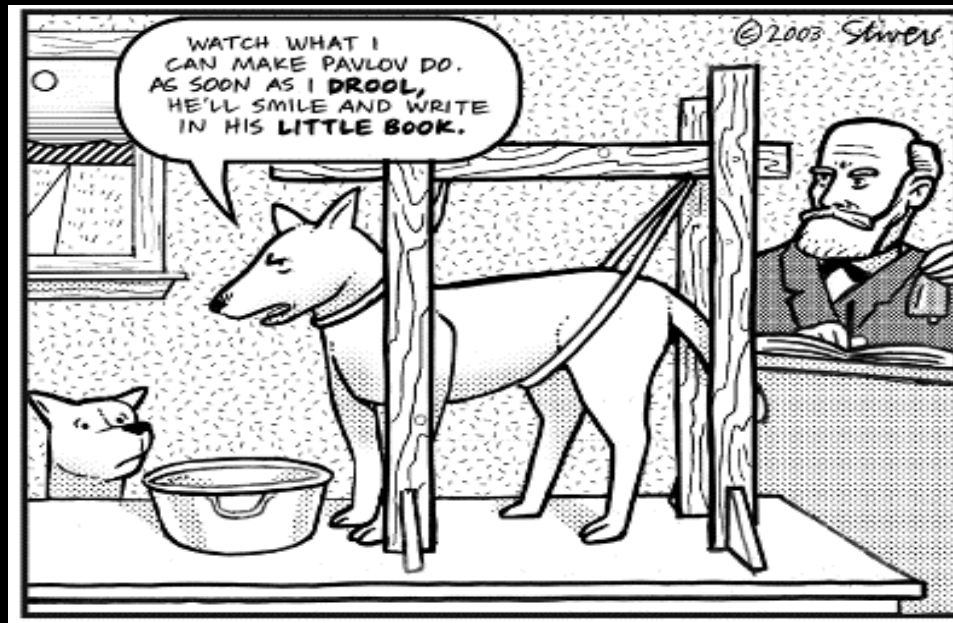
THE ABCs OF BEHAVIOR

Or... Why'd He Do That?

Cindy Wong, MA, BCBA, NCSP
School Psychologist, Marengo ES

Dennis Lefevre, PsyD, BCBA, LEP
Executive Director of Student Support Services

THE "BEHAVIORAL" PERSPECTIVE





THE “BEHAVIORAL” PERSPECTIVE

Antecedent
Behavior
Consequence

THE “BEHAVIORAL” PERSPECTIVE

All behavior results from noticeable changes in the environment...

What happens around the student...

1] just before the behavior → the ***antecedent***

and what has happened...

2] right after the behavior (in the past) → the ***consequence***



THE “BEHAVIORAL” PERSPECTIVE

Activity #1

Brainstorm: From your experience working with kids, what are some examples of things that can happen in the classroom (either BEFORE or AFTER the Bx) that tend to increase inappropriate Bxs?



BEHAVIORAL FUNCTION

All behavior serves a communicative function...

Inappropriate behaviors typically occur as a result of the student's need to **get** or **avoid** one or more of the following 4 things:

- 1] Sensory Stimulation
- 2] Escape
- 3] Attention
- 4] Tangible(s)

Think "SEAT" to remember.

BEHAVIORAL FUNCTION



BEHAVIORAL FUNCTION

Activity #2a

Discuss: In the clip from NAPOLEON DYNAMITE, what do you think the “function” of Napoleon’s reaching into his pocket is? How about the function of Randy’s kicking Napoleon’s leg?

BEHAVIORAL FUNCTION



BEHAVIORAL FUNCTION

Activity #2b

- ✓ **S**ensory
- ✓ **E**scape
- ✓ **A**ttention
- ✓ **T**angible

Discuss: Find the function... For Lloyd? For Joe? For Harry?



“BEHAVIORAL” BEST PRACTICES

What are some of the characteristics of behavioral best practices?

- Scientific, evidence/research-based → it works!
- Large effect size → it works really well!
- Universal application → it works w/ almost everyone, regardless of disability or functional level!



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

5 Practical Techniques You Can Use w/ Students Starting Tomorrow...

- 1] Establishing Operations
- 2] Reinforcement
- 3] Extinction
- 4] Behavioral Momentum
- 5] The Premack Principle



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

Let's look at ATTENTION SEEKING...



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

1. Establishing Operations

Increasing or decreasing the functional need for a behavior.

A Thirst for Attention

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

2. Reinforcement

Rewarding appropriate behavior.

Catching Them Being Good.

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

3. Extinction

NOT rewarding inappropriate behavior.

Just Ignore It.



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

*Now, let's look at ESCAPE (aka TASK
AVOIDANCE)...*



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

4. Behavioral Momentum

Increasing the likelihood that a student will comply with a staff direction by getting compliance for something easier first.

Start the Ball Rolling.

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

5. The Premack Principle

Participation in a more-preferred task is made contingent upon the completion of a less-preferred task.

This for That... Or Grandma's Rule.



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

Activity #3

Problem-Solving: Think of a student you are currently working with. Identify a target behavior for reduction. Form a hypothesis about the possible function of that problem Bx. Select a possible intervention to reduce the frequency, intensity, or duration of the inappropriate Bx.

And plan to try that intervention tomorrow!



THE “BEHAVIORAL” PERSPECTIVE

Q & A