

Examples of socially mediated positive reinforcement maintaining problem behavior

- Attention in the form of comfort statements
- Attention in the form of proximity
- Attention in the form of reprimands
- Attention in the form of social interaction
- Tangible items such as preferred toys, food items, drinks, videos, computers, etc.

Examples of socially mediated negative reinforcement

- Escape or avoidance of instructional activity (includes reduced duration of instructional activity)
- Escape or avoidance of self-care or daily living routines
- Escape or avoidance of aversive sounds or situations

Examples of automatic positive reinforcement

- “Self-stimulatory” behavior
- Sensation-producing behavior
- Endorphin hypothesis?

Examples of automatic negative reinforcement

- Self-scratching to relieve a bug bite or skin allergy
- Ear hitting to relieve an ear ache
- Mouth hitting to relieve a toothache

Tips for practice: Reduce motivation for problem behavior

- If you suspect escape behavior, increase the level of positive reinforcement AND
- Reduce the frequency, intensity, or difficulty of demands THEN
- Gradually increase the requirements during sessions.

Tips for practice: Using extinction

- Minimize reaction and conversation when attention-maintained problem behavior occurs.
- Keep going with what you are doing when problem behavior occurs.
- Do not give preferred items to “calm the person down.”
- Do not increase or decrease session duration based on behavior.

#### Tips for practice: Using Differential Reinforcement

- Maximize reinforcement for appropriate behavior.
- Present only the minimal amount of reinforcement necessary for inappropriate behavior; when possible, this would be none at all.
- Just remember this rule of thumb: Maximize/Minimize

#### Tips for practice: Teaching the functional replacement behavior

- Teach the functional replacement behavior before anything else!
- You will find that the individual is most motivated to learn that replacement behavior.
- For SLPs, this replacement behavior will usually be some form of communication.
- Use a graduated prompting sequence to increase the likelihood of independent responding.
- Behavior Analysts often need help in selecting the most appropriate mode of communication.

#### Tips for practice: Teaching complex repertoires

- Teaching a generalized repertoire makes future learning much easier.
- Examples include generalized imitation and generalized instruction following.
- A generalized repertoire allows target forms of behavior to occur in novel situations.
- Use “sufficient exemplars” to teach generalized repertoires.

#### Bourret et al

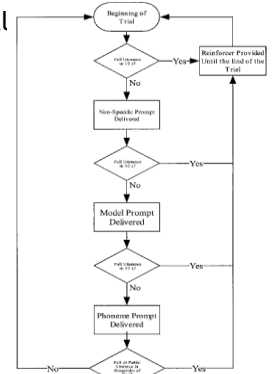


Figure 1. Flow chart depicting the order of events during each 60-s trial of the vocal mand assessment.