

Section: Behavior Management
Topic: Changing Behavior

This topic describes some principles and techniques that can be used to help the person(s) you teach acquire new behaviors or stop behaving in ways that are annoying or harmful.

1. Positive Reinforcement Principle. In order to increase the chances that a student will perform a correct or desirable task again, provide an immediate reward afterwards.



Arrange immediate reinforcement after each correct performance.

2. One person's reinforcer may not work for another. Just as some people like coffee and others don't, one student will like certain types of praise while another won't.



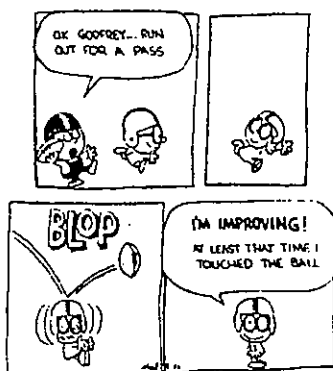
"Wait till I get my hands on Amy — going around saying I'm a straight 'A' student!"

Events that reinforce one person may not reinforce another.

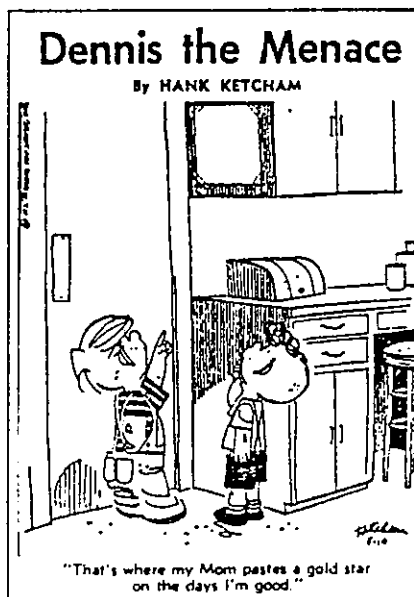
3. The Shaping Technique. To teach a student a task or activity s/he has never performed before, reinforce attempts that approximate the goal. Try to reinforce improvement!

Gradual Improvements Become New Behaviors

PATRICK - - - By MAL HANCOCK



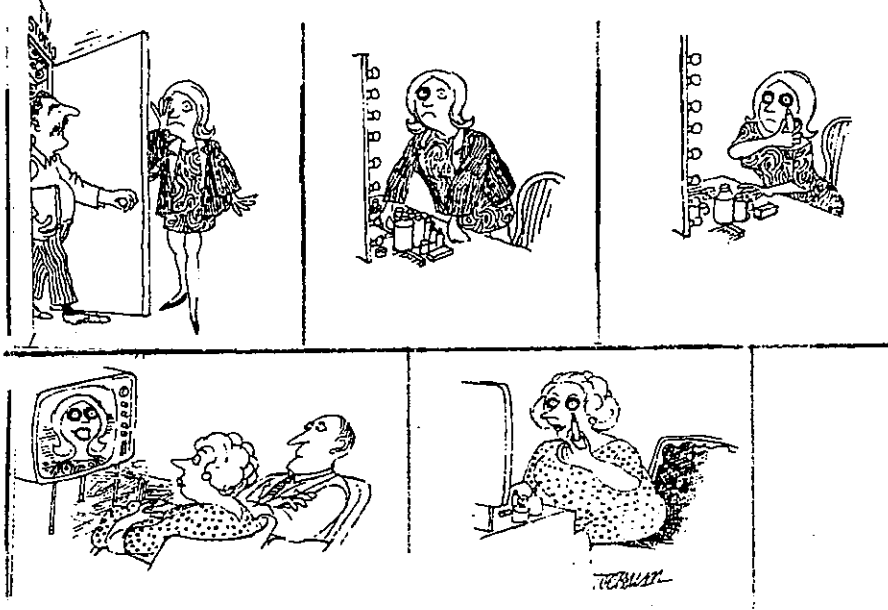
Reward successive steps to the final behavior.



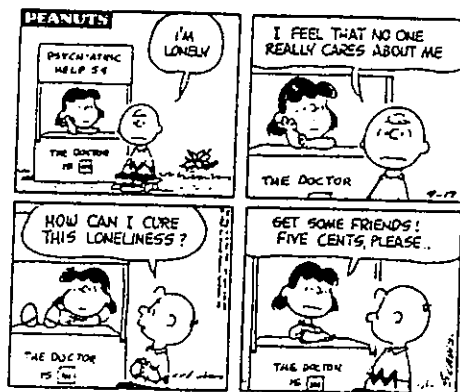
Reward successive improvements instead of waiting for perfect behavior.

4. Modeling. Students will learn new behaviors by watching more prestigious persons. You are a powerful model for behavior.

Behaviors of prestigious persons are modeled.



5. The Incompatible Alternative Principle. To stop a student from acting in a particular way, you may reward an alternative action that is inconsistent with or cannot be performed at the same time as the undesired act.



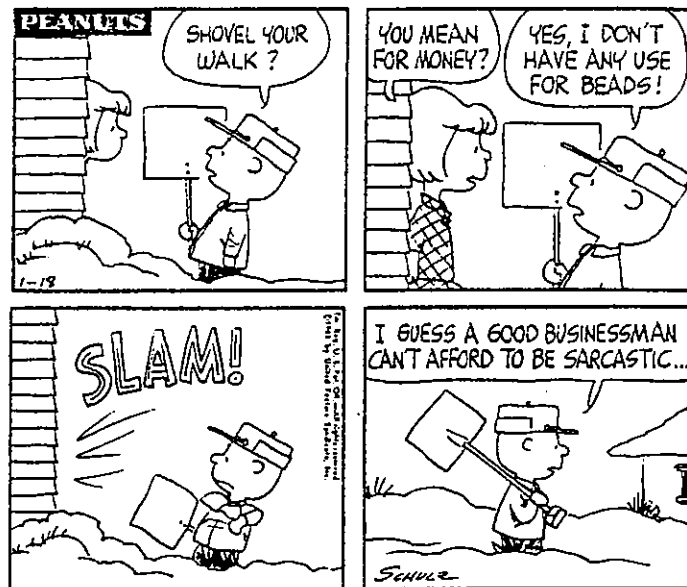
Encourage incompatible alternative behavior.



"We want something real nice to give our daughter for not rebelling."

Reward some specific alternative action, not merely the absence of the undesired behavior.

6. The Extinction Principle. If a student is performing undesirable behavior, try ignoring it. Provide no reinforcement.



Behavior not followed by reinforcement tends to be extinguished.



"Try ignoring him."

The Extinction Principle stops another person's undesirable behavior only when you can control all his sources of reinforcement.

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Assignment #: _____
Due Date: _____
Name _____

Review each of the principles and techniques in the attached article. For each list an example that you might use in your own teaching. Provide an example student behavior and an appropriate use of the technique.

1. Positive Reinforcement

Example behavior:

Technique:

2. One person's reinforcer may not work for another.

Example behavior:

Technique:

3. The Shaping Technique

Example behavior:

Technique:

4. Modeling

Example behavior:

Technique:

5. The Incompatible Alternative Principle

Example behavior:

Technique:

6. The Extinction Principle

Example behavior:

Technique: