

Video Guide *Reinforcement Therapy, 35 minutes (1966)*

Three sequences, each with a different group of people show behavior modification programs. In this fascinating film you will see a number of procedures. Be able to answer all questions which start with a *. **Write** your notes on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Autistic Children - Four severely disturbed children are being taught to speak. Autistic children start life normally. However, as very young children they cease normal development and withdraw from human contact. The cause of autism is unknown. Effective treatment is rare.
 - a. *What type Of positive reinforcers are used? Some are primary and some are secondary.
 - b. *How is positive reinforcement used?
 - c. *How is shaping demonstrated?

Shaping is a procedure used to teach a new behavior by reinforcing closer and closer approximation of the desired behavior. Note this process in teaching Billy to talk.

- d. *Describe an example of punishment. Why was it used? Was it effective?
 - e. *Note the use of imitation. Cite 2 examples.
2. Retarded children - A classroom of retarded children are learning to read and write. Retarded children generally take more time than normal children to learn. Secondary reinforcers (check marks and social reinforcers) are used which can later be turned in for candies and toys. How were positive reinforcers used?
3. Long term patients, adult females - A token economy is used. A token economy involves giving patients a token for good behaviors. These tokens can be exchanged for things the patients desire. A variety of reinforcers and behaviors are included in the system.
 - a. *What procedure is demonstrated by the withdrawal of tokens for sleeping in bed?
 - b. *What things do the patients work for?
 - c. *How would you describe the token economy?
4. When viewing the film, keep these questions in mind.
 - a. What is the problem? What behavior is being changed?
 - b. How often does the behavior occur or not occur?
 - c. What procedure is used to influence the behavior?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Demonstrate your understanding of Reinforcement Therapy by answering all of the * questions asked on this page after seeing the film.