

Problem Behavior in Educational Contexts

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Common Problem Behaviors

❖ Severe:

- ❖ Self-injurious behavior (SIB)*
- ❖ Aggression (AGG)*
- ❖ Property destruction*
- ❖ Sexual misconduct*

❖ Other:

- ❖ Stereotypy (STPY)*
- ❖ Tantrums & noncompliance*
- ❖ Running away*
- ❖ An endless list of others*

Sources of Reinforcement for Problem Behavior

❖ Positive Reinforcement

- ❖ *Social (attention, access to tangible materials)*
- ❖ *Automatic (sensory stimulation)*

❖ Negative Reinforcement

- ❖ *Social (escape from task demands)*
- ❖ *Automatic (pain attenuation)*

Methods for Conducting Functional Analyses

Anecdotal (Indirect) Methods

Descriptive (Naturalistic) Analysis

Functional (Experimental) Analysis

Functional Analysis Screening Tool (FAST)

FAST

Functional Analysis Screening Tool

Client: _____ Date: _____

Informant: _____ Interviewer: _____

To the Interviewer: The FAST identifies factors that may influence problem behaviors. Use it only for screening as part of a comprehensive functional analysis of the behavior. Administer the FAST to several individuals who interact with the client frequently. Then use the results to guide direct observation in several different situations to verify suspected behavioral functions and to identify other factors that may influence the problem behavior.

To the Informant: Complete the sections below. Then read each question carefully and answer it by circling "Yes" or "No." If you are uncertain about an answer, circle "N/A."

Informant-Client Relationship

1. Indicate your relationship to the person: ___Parent ___Instructor
___Therapist/Residential Staff ___(Other)
2. How long have you known the person? ___Years ___Months
3. Do you interact with the person daily? ___Yes ___No
4. In what situations do you usually interact with the person?
___ Meals ___ Academic training
___ Leisure ___ Work or vocational training
___ Self-care ___(Other)

Problem Behavior Information

1. Problem behavior (check and describe):
___ Aggression _____
___ Self-Injury _____
___ Stereotypy _____
___ Property destruction _____
___ Other _____
2. Frequency: ___Hourly ___Daily ___Weekly ___Less often
3. Severity: ___Mild: Disruptive but little risk to property or health
___M o d e r a t e: Property damage or minor injury
___S e v e r e: Significant threat to health or safety
4. Situations in which the problem behavior is most likely to occur:
Days/Times _____
Settings/Activities _____
Persons present _____
5. Situations in which the problem behavior is least likely to occur:
Days/Times _____
Settings/Activities _____
Persons present _____
6. What is usually happening to the person right before the problem behavior occurs?

7. What usually happens to the person right after the problem behavior occurs?

8. Current treatments _____

1. Does the problem behavior occur when the person is not receiving attention or when caregivers are paying attention to someone else? Yes No N/A
2. Does the problem behavior occur when the person's requests for preferred items or activities are denied or when these are taken away? Yes No N/A
3. When the problem behavior occurs, do caregivers usually try to calm the person down or involve the person in preferred activities? Yes No N/A
4. Is the person usually well behaved when (s)he is getting lots of attention or when preferred activities are freely available? Yes No N/A
5. Does the person usually fuss or resist when (s)he is asked to perform a task or to participate in activities? Yes No N/A
6. Does the problem behavior occur when the person is asked to perform a task or to participate in activities? Yes No N/A
7. If the problem behavior occurs while tasks are being presented, is the person usually given a "break" from tasks? Yes No N/A
8. Is the person usually well behaved when (s)he is not required to do anything? Yes No N/A
9. Does the problem behavior occur even when no one is nearby or watching? Yes No N/A
10. Does the person engage in the problem behavior even when leisure activities are available? Yes No N/A
11. Does the problem behavior appear to be a form of "self-stimulation"? Yes No N/A
12. Is the problem behavior less likely to occur when sensory stimulating activities are presented? Yes No N/A
13. Is the problem behavior cyclical, occurring for several days and then stopping? Yes No N/A
14. Does the person have recurring painful conditions such as ear infections or allergies? If so, list: _____ Yes No N/A
15. Is the problem behavior more likely to occur when the person is ill? Yes No N/A
16. If the person is experiencing physical problems, and these are treated, does the problem behavior usually go away? Yes No N/A

Scoring Summary

Circle the number of each question that was answered "Yes" and enter the number of items that were circled in the "Total" column.

Items Circled "Yes"	Total	Potential Source of Reinforcement
1 2 3 4	_____	Social (attention/preferred items)
5 6 7 8	_____	Social (escape from tasks/activities)
9 10 11 12	_____	Automatic (sensory stimulation)
13 14 15 16	_____	Automatic (pain attenuation)

Structured "A-B-C" Analysis

STRUCTURED ABC (Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence) ANALYSIS

Date:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Time:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Staff:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Individual: _____
 Residence: _____

Behavior (list specific problem):

1 HEAD BANGING (SIB)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2																								
3																								

Use this form to identify situational factors related to the occurrence of behavior problem. Each time a target behavior occurs, record the date, time, and your initials. Use check marks to identify target behavior, location, activity, and what happened immediately before and after the behavior.

Location where behavior occurred:

Residence			x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x	
Worksite	x	x		x			x		x			x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x
School																										
Outside			x												x											
Community outing																										
Other:							x																			

Data on antecedents (As) and consequences (Cs) are summarized in the boxes below. As and Cs are organized under likely behavioral functions (Note: some As or Cs may reflect more than one function). In each box, enter the number of times an A or C was checked (use the arrows as guides). Enter the overall totals at the bottom of each column.

General activity in progress:

Leisure/solitary (TV, music, etc.)																											
Leisure/social (with another person)																											
Meal (preparation, eating, clean up)											x											x				x	
Self-care or household chore				x		x			x			x		x		x						x		x		x	
Academic, work, or training activity	x	x	x		x			x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x	
Alone (sitting, in bed, etc.)																											
Other: SHOPPING IN MALL							x																				

Pos. Reinf. (attention) Pos. Reinf. (materials) Neg. Reinf. (escape) Auto. Reinf. (sensory)

Immediate antecedent (A):

Ignored by staff or staff walked away											x														x			
Leisure material or food removed/denied	x														x													
Other request denied												x																
Given instruction/prompt to work	x		x	x		x			x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Provoked by peer					x			x																				
None (individual alone/doing nothing)									x																			

-> 2
 -----> 2
 -----> 1
 -----> 15
 -----> 2
 -----> 1 -----> 1

Immediate consequence (C):

Attention, response block, told to "stop"	x		x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Redirected to another area/activity	x					x																					
Leisure material/food given															x												
Work requirement terminated					x			x			x			x		x						x				x	
Staff walked away																											
Staff did nothing																											

-> 15
 -----> 2 -----> 2
 -----> 1
 -----> 5
 -----> 0 -----> 0
 -----> 0

TOTAL: 20 6 22 1

Functional (Experimental) Analysis

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Antecedent</u>	<u>Consequence</u>	<u>Contingency</u>
Attention	<i>Th. ignores Cl.</i>	<i>Th. attends to beh. problem</i>	<i>Positive rfmnt (attention)</i>
Demand	<i>Th. presents learning trials</i>	<i>Timeout for beh. problem</i>	<i>Negative rfmnt (escape)</i>
Alone	<i>Th. Absent</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A Automatic reinf?</i>
Play	<i>Toys available Noncontingent reinforcement</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Control</i>

Functional Analysis Data Sheet

Conduct sessions as described below and in the listed sequence (Session #1=Alone, #2=Attention, etc.). Add a Tangible condition only if it is strongly suspected that problem behavior is maintained by access to tangibles. Each session should last for 10 min. Record either the # or rate of problem behavior (PB) in each session, and summarize as the mean per condition.

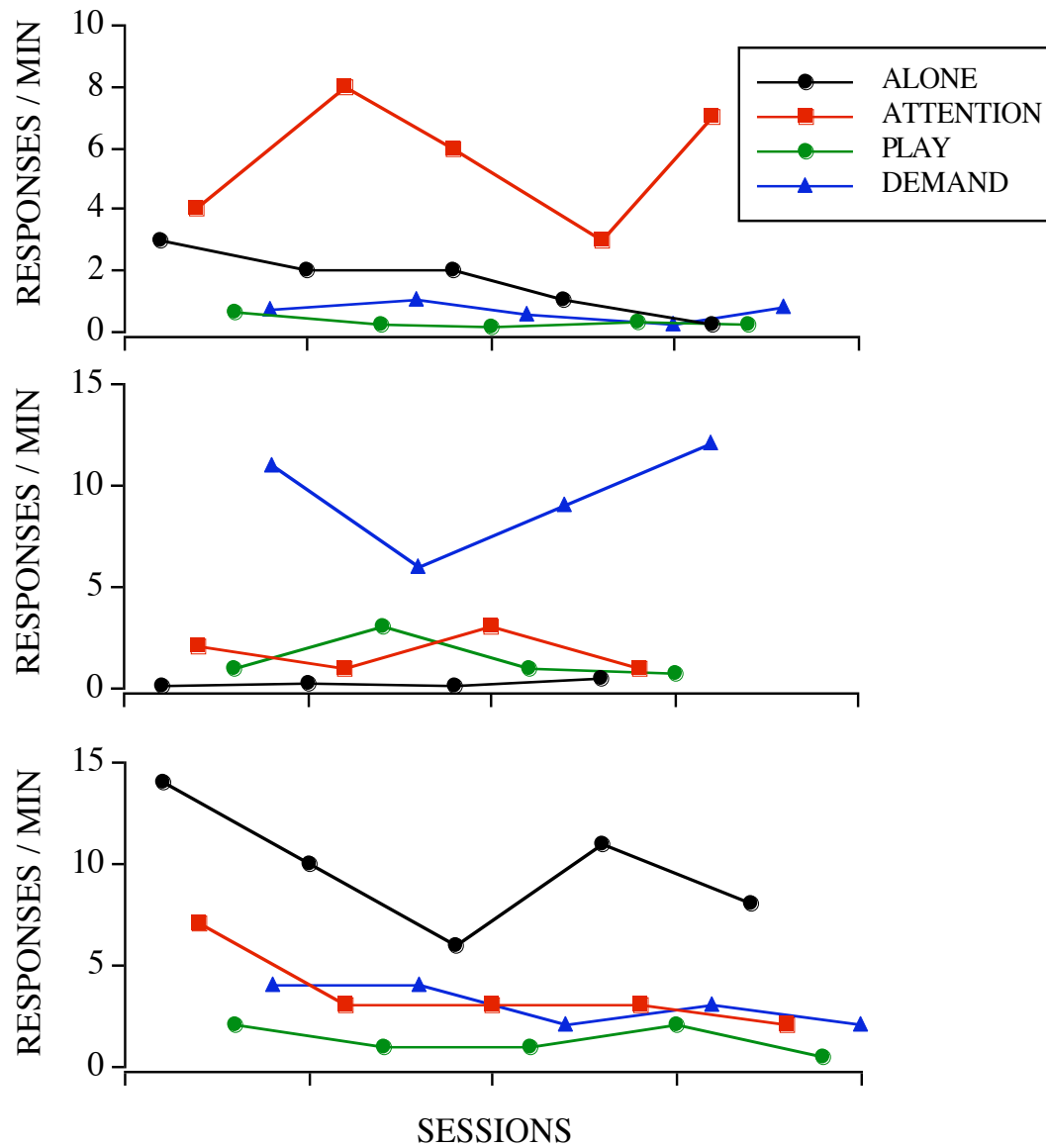
- Alone:** Begin session: Student is alone in a room with no access to attention or leisure items.
If PB: No consequences.
- Attention:** Begin session: Inform student that you are busy; then ignore.
If PB: Deliver a mild reprimand, statement of concern, physical comfort, then ignore again
- Play:** Begin session: Deliver frequent attention and allow free access to preferred items. Do not deliver demands.
If PB: Ignore briefly; then resume play.
- Demand:** Begin session: Deliver nonpreferred academic or work tasks.
If PB: Remove task and ignore for 30 s; then resume tasks.
- Tangible:** Begin session: Allow brief access to preferred item then remove and ignore.
If PB: Provide brief access to preferred item; then remove again.
- Other:** Begin session:
If PB:

Student: _____ Start date: _____

Problem behavior: _____ End date: _____

Session	Alone	Attention	Play	Demand	Tangible	Other
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Mean PB						

Typical Response Patterns



Shortcut to Identifying Behavioral Functions

Source of Sr

Likely to Occur

Unlikely to Occur

Social Sr+

- *No access to attn/tangibles*
- *Peer access to attn/tangibles*

- *Access to attn/tangibles*

Social Sr-

- *Work tasks present*
- *Required social interaction*

- *No activity requirements*

Automatic Sr

- *No access to leisure items*

- *Access to stimulating activity*

Probable Functions of Specific Behavior Disorders

<u>Behavior Disorder</u>	<u>Positive Reinforcement</u>		<u>Negative Reinforcement</u>	
	<u>Social</u>	<u>Automatic</u>	<u>Social</u>	<u>Automatic</u>
	<i>Aggression</i>	+	∅	+
<i>Tantrums</i>	+	∅	+	∅
<i>Noncompliance</i>	+	∅	+	∅
<i>Property Destruction</i>	+	?	+	∅
<i>"Stereotypies"</i>	?	+	?	?
<i>SIB</i>	+	+	+	+

Summary of Assessment Results

<u><i>Function</i></u>	<u><i>Iwata et al.</i></u> <i>SIB (152)</i>	<u><i>Conners et al.</i></u> <i>STPY (91)</i>	<u><i>Shore et al.</i></u> <i>AGG (16)</i>
<i>Social Sr+</i>	26.3%	1.1%	31.3%
<i>Social Sr-</i>	38.1%	0%	62.5%
<i>Automatic Sr</i>	25.7%	98.9%	0%
<i>Multiple Sr</i>	9.9%	0%	6.2% (all social)

Summary of Assessment Results

<u><i>Function</i></u>	<u><i>Iwata et al.</i></u> <i>SIB (152)</i>	<u><i>Conners et al.</i></u> <i>STPY (91)</i>	<u><i>Shore et al.</i></u> <i>AGG (16)</i>
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Reinforcement-Based Approaches to Behavior Reduction

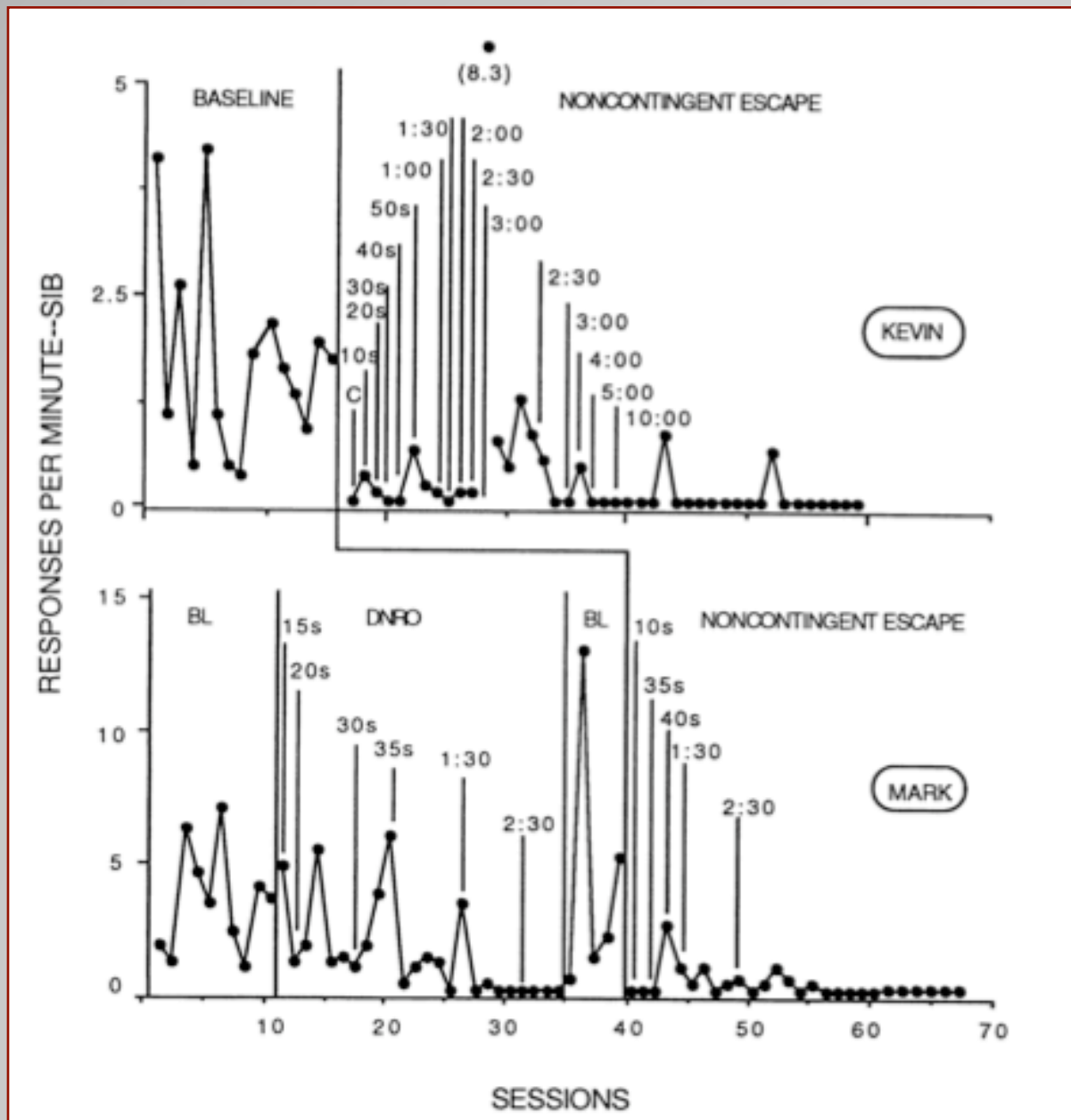
- ❖ *Eliminate the behavior's establishing operation or antecedent event (deprivation or aversive stimulation)*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent reinforcement (NCR)*
- ❖ *Eliminate the behavior's maintaining contingency*
 - ❖ *Extinction (EXT)*
- ❖ *Replace the behavior with an alternative response*
 - ❖ *Differential reinforcement (DRA)*

Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Periodic, Noncontingent Escape *(Vollmer, Marcus & Ringdahl, 1995)*

- ❖ *Participants: N=2, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *BL: SIB ⇒ 30-s break*
 - ❖ *TR: Continuous escape ⇒ 1 (20- or 30-s) break per session*



Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

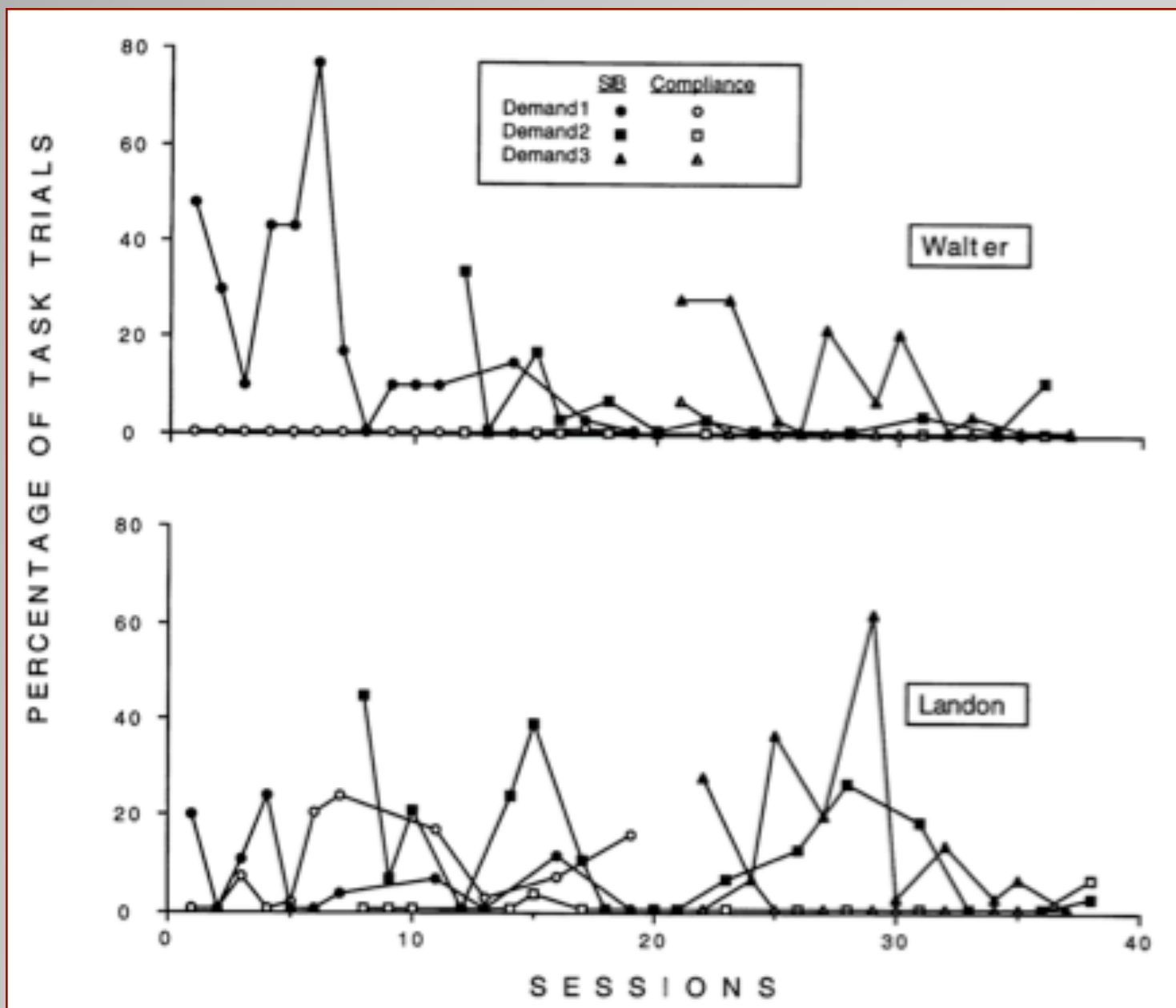
- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Establishing Operations for Escape Behavior

(Smith, Iwata, Goh, & Shore, 1995)

Study 2: Novelty

- ❖ *Participants: N=2, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *Exposure to “novel” tasks*
 - ❖ *Continued exposure to determine whether novelty abated*

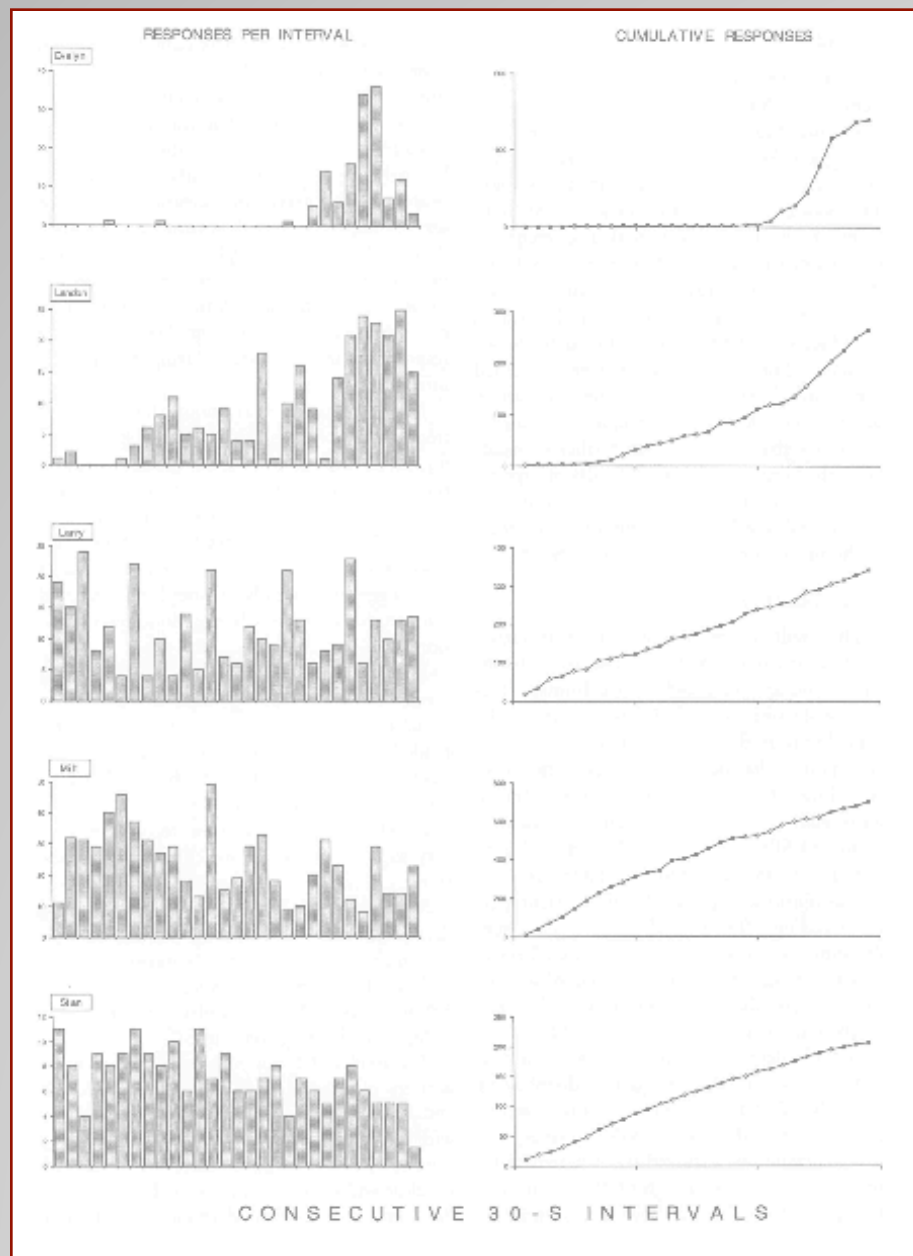


Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Establishing Operations for Escape Behavior
(Smith, Iwata, Goh, & Shore, 1995)
Study 3: Session Duration

- ❖ *Participants: N=5, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *Exposure to 15-min sessions*
 - ❖ *Data analysis in 30-s bins*

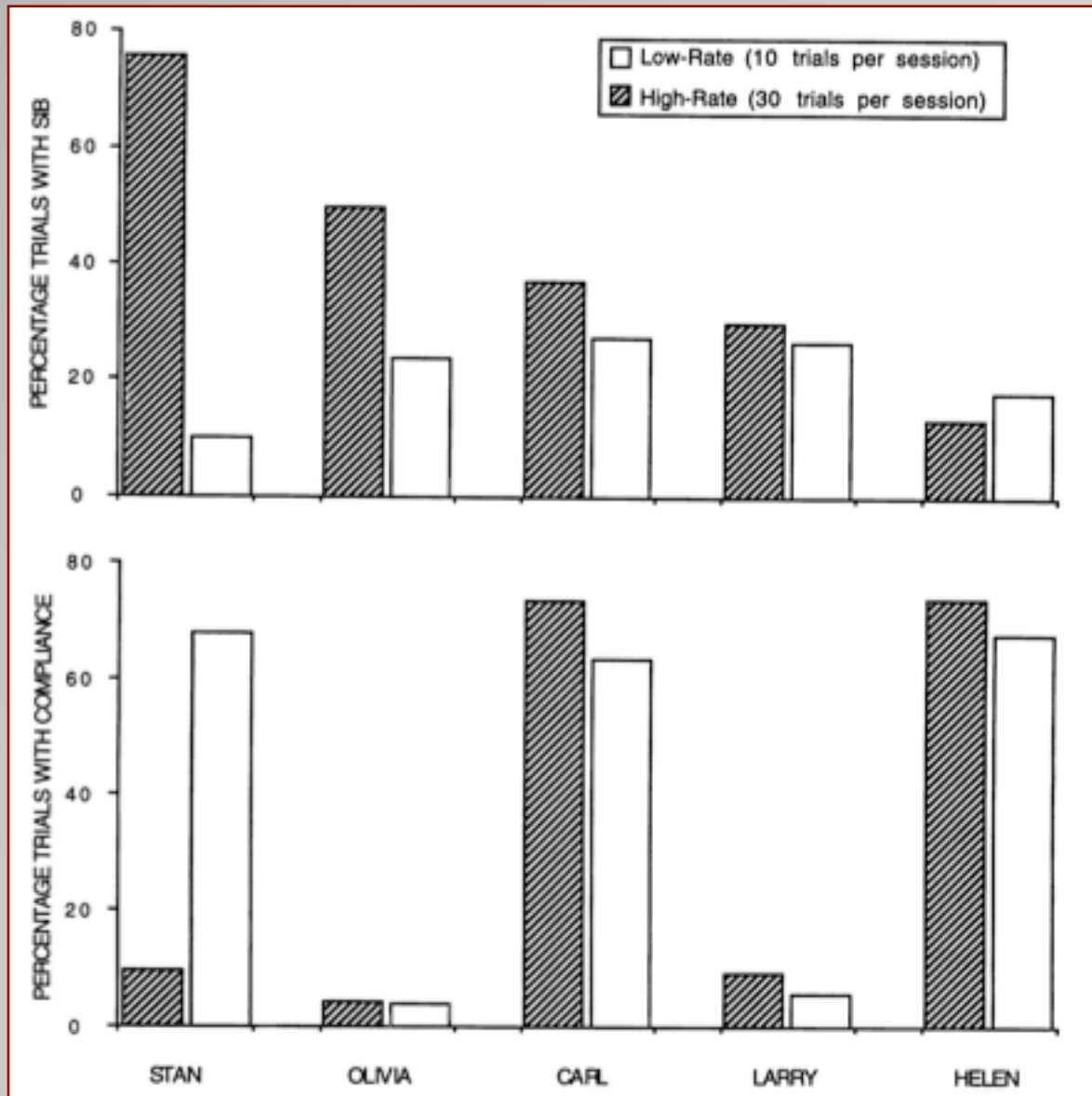


Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Establishing Operations for Escape Behavior
(Smith, Iwata, Goh, & Shore, 1995)
Study 4: Rate of trial presentation

- ❖ *Participants: N=5, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *High-rate trial presentation (30 s)*
 - ❖ *Low-rate trial presentation (90 s)*



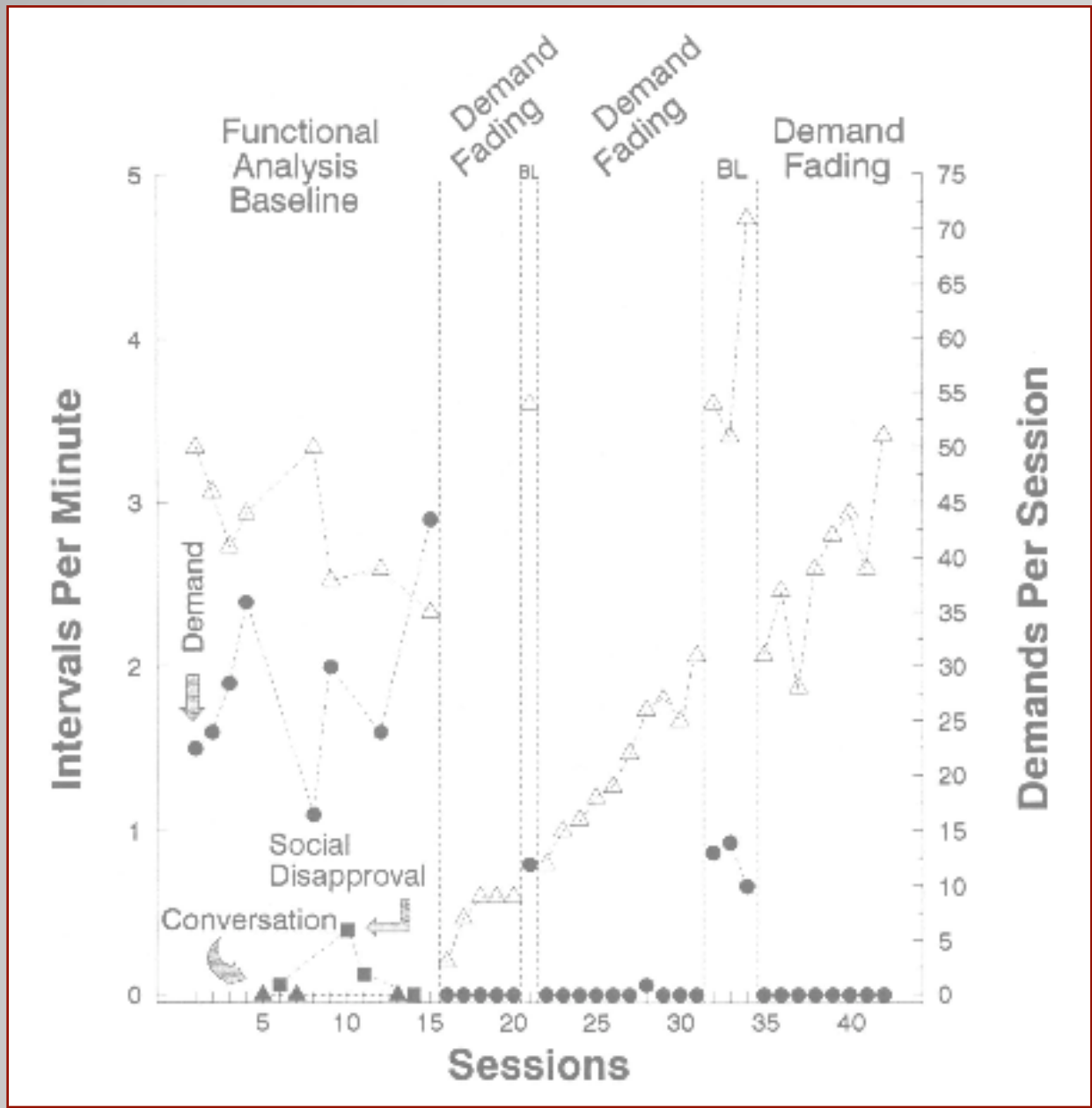
Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Stimulus (demand) Fading

(Pace, Ivancic, & Jefferson, 1994)

- ❖ *Participant: N-1, TBI, obscenity*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *BL: Obscenity ➔ 30-s break*
 - ❖ *DF (No EXT): 3 demand trials ➔ 52 demand trials /session*



Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

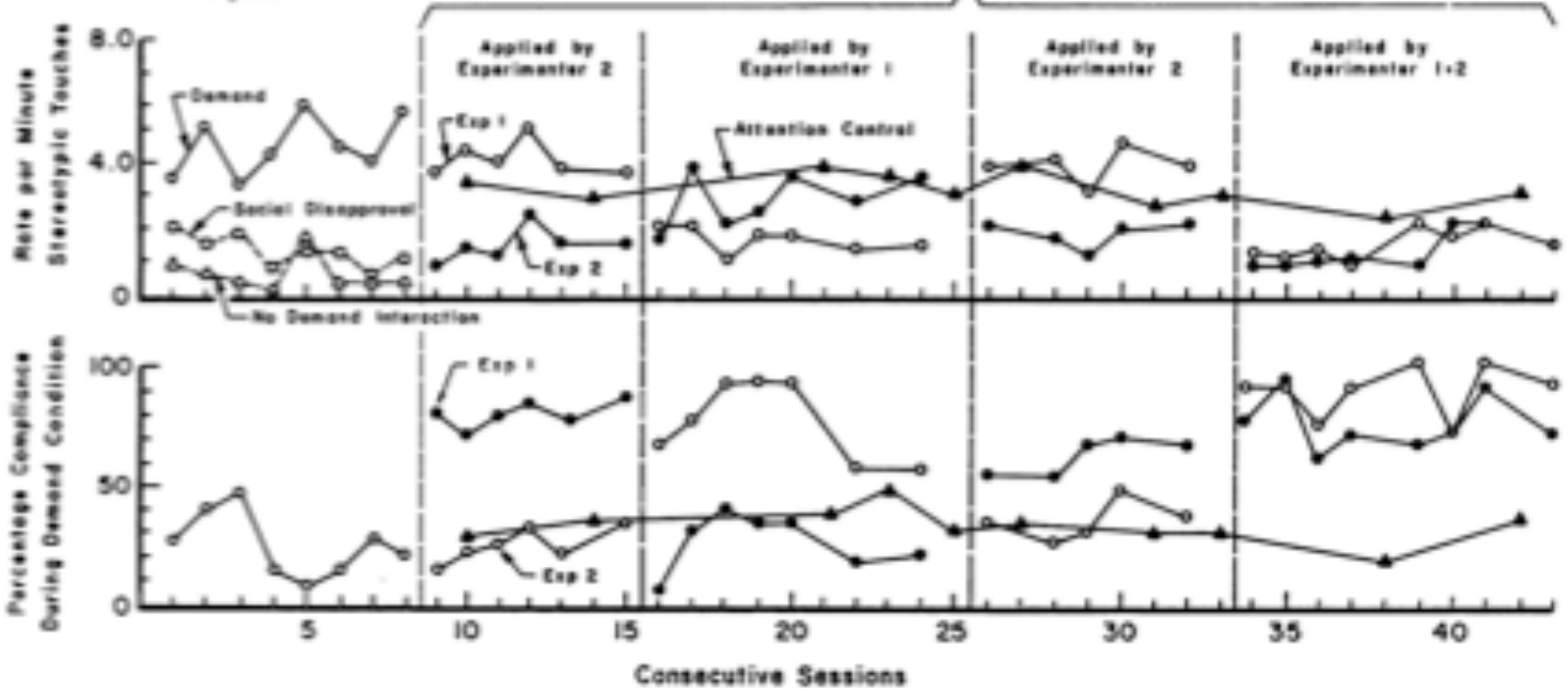
“Behavioral Momentum”

(Mace & Belfiore, 1990)

- ❖ *Participant: N=1, DD, “STR” (hand/foot contact)*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions:*
 - ❖ *Low-p: 1 low-p/min; STR → Th leaves room*
 - ❖ *High-p: 3 high-p → 1 low-p/min; STR → EXT*
 - ❖ *Low-p and high-p alternated between 2 TH*

High Probability Command Sequence
 Preceding
 A Low Probability Command

Experimental
 Analyses

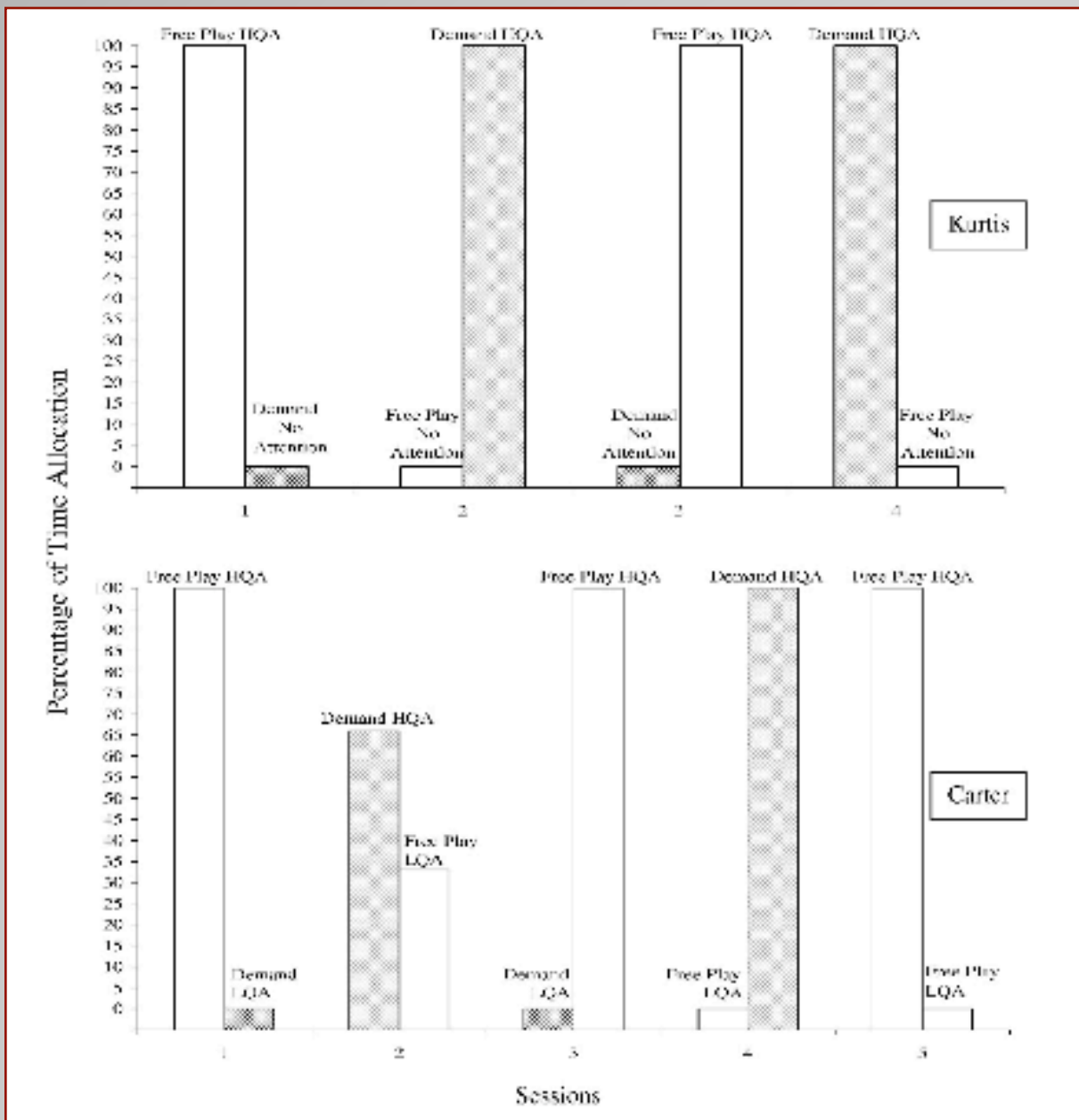


Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Antecedent Interventions

- ❖ *Establishing operation: Aversive stimulation (demands)*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent task removal (NCR)*
 - ❖ *Frequent breaks from work*
 - ❖ *Maintenance tasks substituted for acquisition tasks*
 - ❖ *Reduced session duration*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate of task presentation*
 - ❖ *Demand fading (frequency or difficulty)*
 - ❖ *High probability (Hi-p) instructional sequence*
 - ❖ *Noncontingent Sr+*

Attention and Negative Reinforcement (Gardner, Wacker, & Boelter, 2009)

- ❖ *Participants: N=2, typically developing, NC, AGG, PD*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Attention conditions*
 - ❖ *HQA: eye contact, close, enthusiastic praise*
 - ❖ *LQA: no eye contact, far, negative or neutral tone*
 - ❖ *No attention*
- ❖ *Activity conditions*
 - ❖ *Free play: free access to preferred activities, no demands*
 - ❖ *Demand: Demand presentation, no preferred activities*
- ❖ *Attention & Activity pairs presented as concurrent choice*



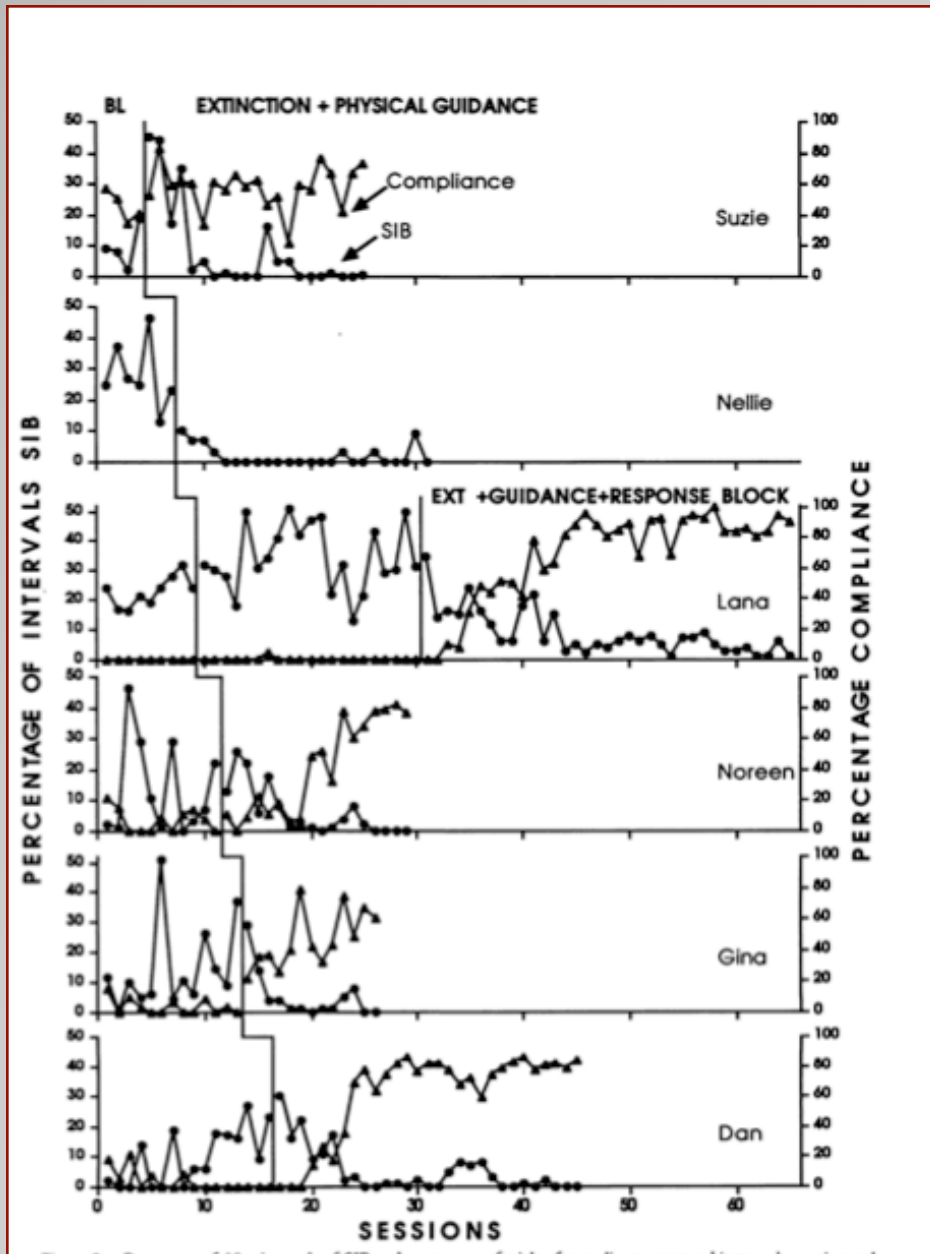
Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Extinction

- ❖ *Maintaining Reinforcer: Escape*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *EXT (escape); EXT (attention) contraindicated*

Escape Extinction

(Iwata, Pace, Kalsher, Cowdery, & Cataldo, 1990)

- ❖ *Participants: N=7, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions*
 - ❖ *BL: Compliance ⇒ Praise, SIB ⇒ Escape*
 - ❖ *EXT: Compliance ⇒ Praise, SIB ⇒ Prompting*



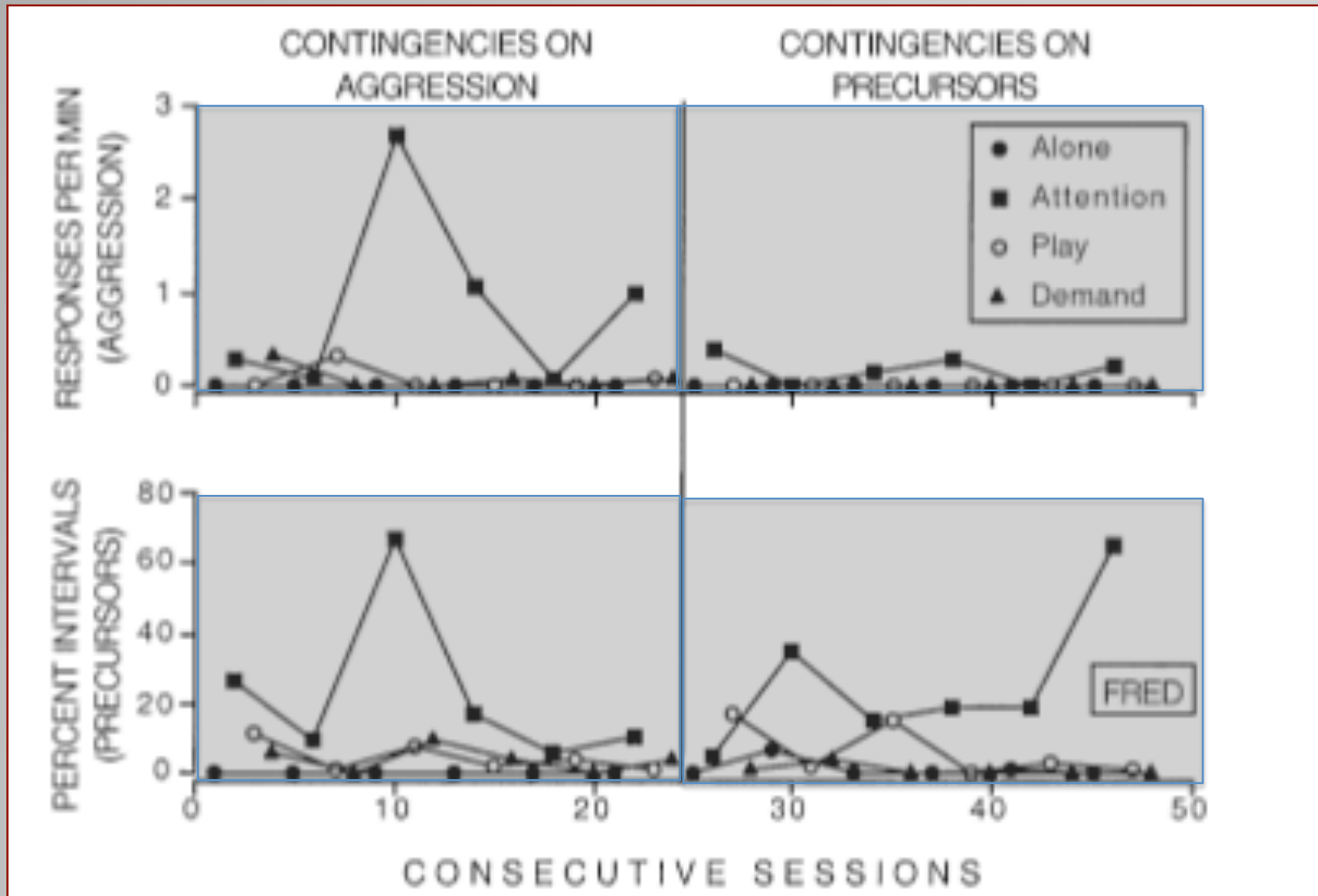


Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Differential Reinforcement

- ❖ *Replacement of escape response*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Reinforce precursor behavior*
 - ❖ *Establish an alternative escape behavior*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via enhanced Sr+*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via enhanced Sr-*

Functional Analysis of Precursor Behavior (Smith & Churchill, 1995)

- ❖ *Participants: N=4, DD, SIB or AGG*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Assessment conditions*
 - ❖ *FA #1: Contingencies on precursors*
 - ❖ *FA #2: Contingencies on severe PB*



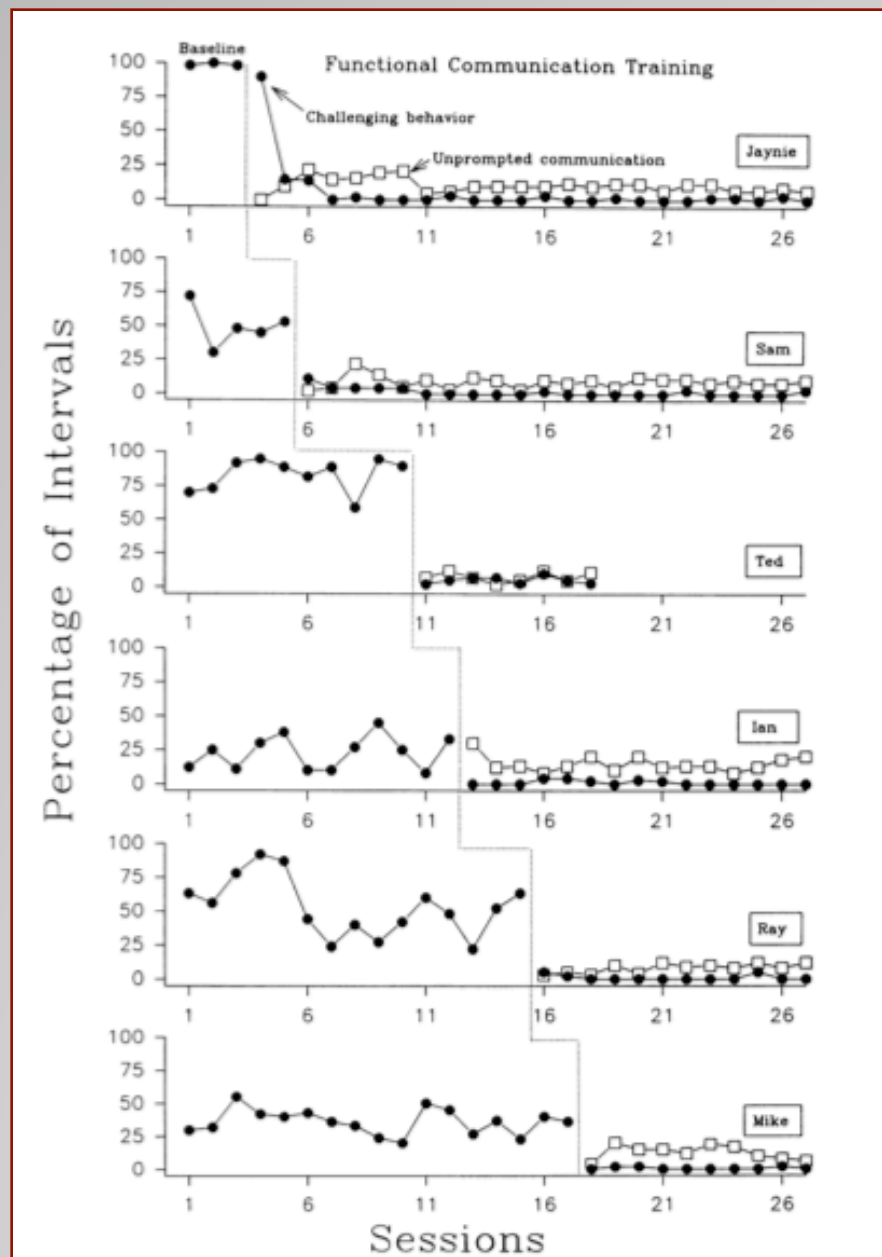
Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Differential Reinforcement

- ❖ *Replacement of escape response*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Reinforce precursor behavior*
 - ❖ *Establish an alternative escape behavior*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via Sr+*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via enhanced Sr-*

Functional Communication Training

(Durand & Carr, 1992)

- ❖ *Participants: N=6, DD, varied PB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions*
 - ❖ *BL: PB → Escape*
 - ❖ *TR: PB → EXT, Alt R → Escape*



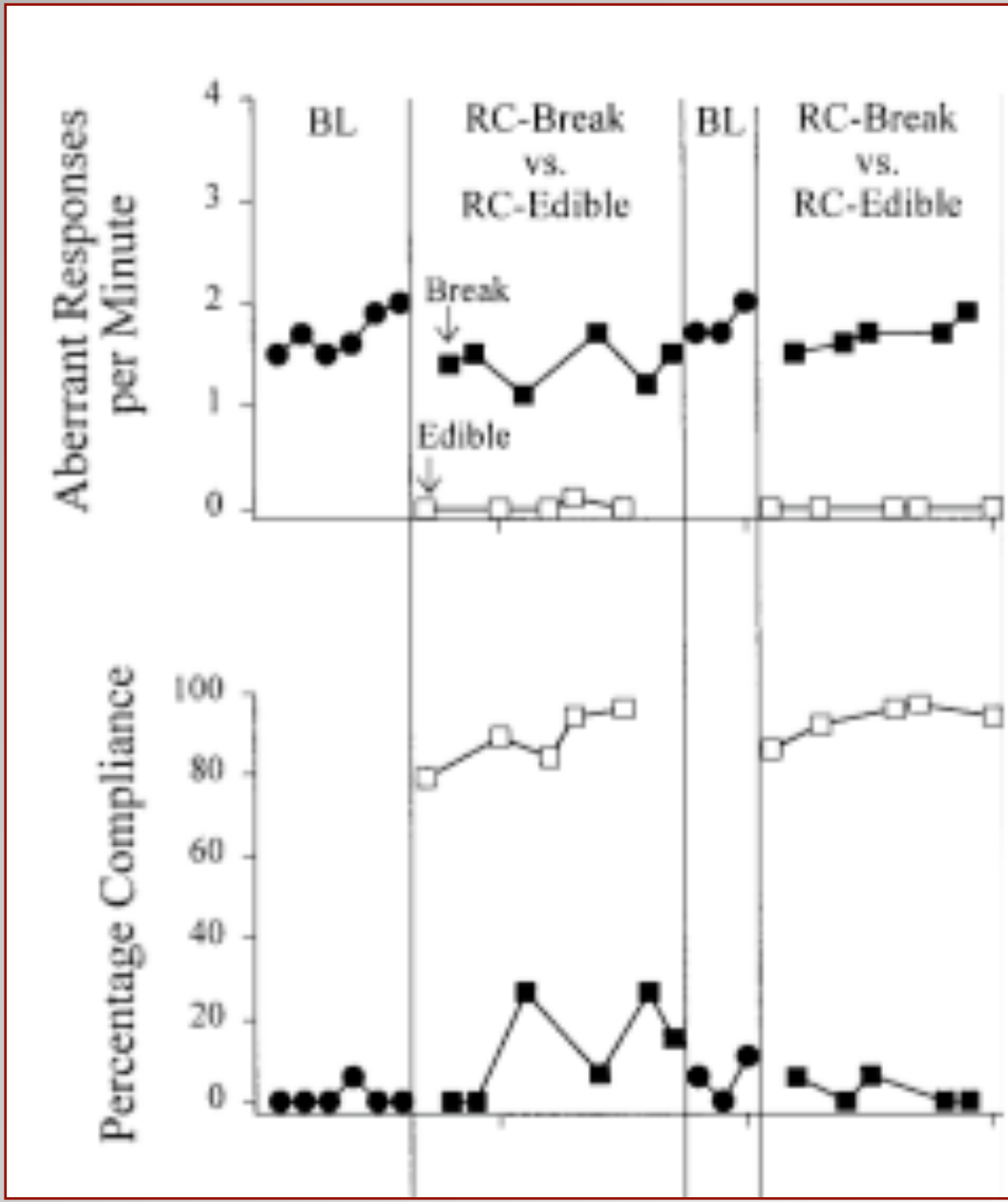
Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Differential Reinforcement

- ❖ *Replacement of escape response*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Reinforce precursor behavior*
 - ❖ *Establish an alternative escape behavior*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via Sr+*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via Sr-*

Sr+ vs. Sr- for Compliance

(DeLeon, Neidert, Anders & Rodriguez-Catter, 2001)

- ❖ *Participants: N=1, DD, varied PB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions*
 - ❖ *BL: PB ⇒ Escape*
 - ❖ *RC-edible (Sr+): Compliance ⇒ chip*
 - ❖ *RC-break (Sr-): Compliance ⇒ EXT, 30-s break*

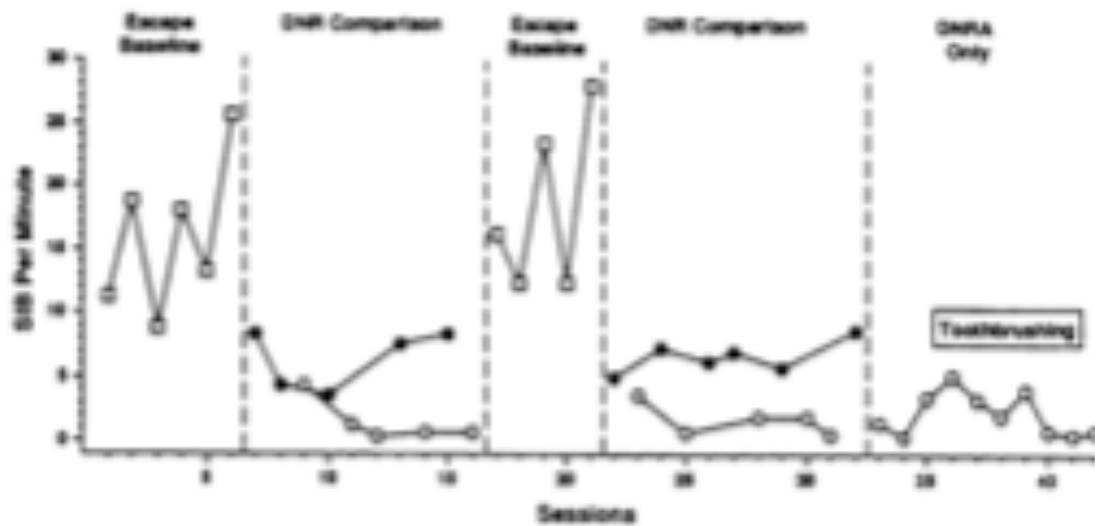
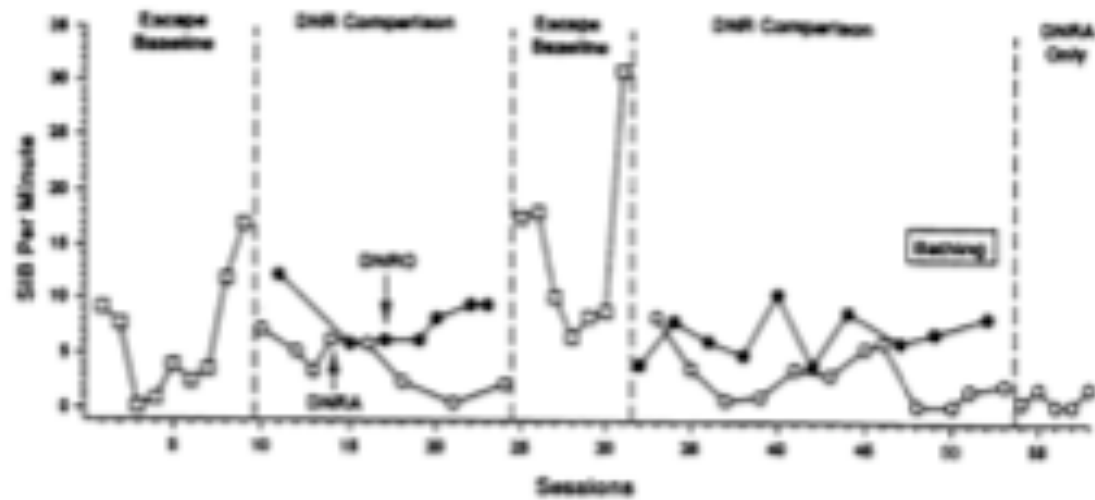


Problem Behavior Maintained by Social Sr- Differential Reinforcement

- ❖ *Replacement of escape response*
- ❖ *Treatment options*
 - ❖ *Reinforce precursor behavior*
 - ❖ *Establish an alternative escape behavior*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via Sr+*
 - ❖ *Strengthen compliance via Sr-*

Comparison of DNR Procedures *(Roberts, Mace, & Daggett, 1995)*

- ❖ *Participants: N=1, DD, SIB*
- ❖ *Functional analysis: PB maintained by escape*
- ❖ *Treatment conditions*
 - ❖ *BL: PB ⇒ Escape*
 - ❖ *DNRO: PB ⇒ EXT, 20-s No PB ⇒ 15-s break*
 - ❖ *DNRA: PB ⇒ EXT, Compliance ⇒ 15-s break*



A WORD OF CAUTION

- ❖ *Almost all studies in which EO or DR interventions have been used incorporated EXT*
- ❖ *Effects of EO and DR interventions w/o EXT have been negative or inconclusive*
- ❖ *Combine antecedent interventions*
 - ❖ *Reduced rate, effort, duration*
 - ❖ *DF + Hi-p sequence*
- ❖ *Combine DR interventions*
 - ❖ *Sr+ + Sr-*
 - ❖ *DNRO + DNRA*



The End