

Using Multiple Schedules during Functional Communication Training to Promote Rapid Transfer of Treatment Effects



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What is the Relevance of the Study?

The study investigates how to make functional communication training (FCT) more practical and effective for parents and teachers by using multiple schedules with signaled periods of reinforcement and extinction.

The goal is to enhance the portability and transferability of FCT across different environments and among therapists.

What is known

01

Functional Communication Training (FCT):

FCT reduces problem behaviors by teaching alternative communication methods reinforced by social consequences.

02

Multiple Schedules:

Multiple schedules with signaled reinforcement and extinction periods help make interventions practical for natural settings.

03

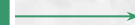
Effectiveness of Multiple Schedules:

Studies show that multiple schedules can quickly transfer stimulus control and reduce problem behaviors effectively.

What is yet to be established

Transfer of Treatment Effects:

It's unclear if signaled schedules can quickly transfer FCT effects across settings and therapists.



Effectiveness Across Contexts:

It's not clear how well multiple schedules maintain low problem behavior and high communication across different environments.



Long-Term Sustainability:

The long-term effectiveness and practicality of using multiple schedules in real-world settings for diverse populations have not been thoroughly investigated.

Methodology



PARTICIPANTS:
THE STUDY INVOLVED THREE PARTICIPANTS: TWO CHILDREN INITIALLY, WITH A THIRD PARTICIPANT INCLUDED LATER.



MULTIPLE BASELINE DESIGN:
THIS DESIGN WAS USED ACROSS DIFFERENT SETTINGS OR THERAPISTS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE INTERVENTION.

Methodology

Implementation of Two Phases

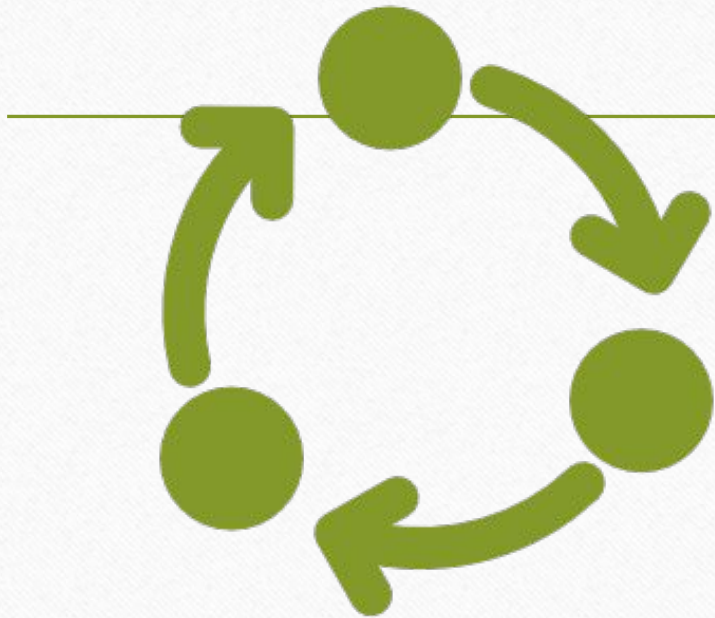
Baseline (Mixed Schedules) Phase

a) Problem behaviors were reinforced without signals for reinforcement or extinction, setting a standard for comparison in the intervention phase.

Treatment (Multiple Schedules) Phase:

- a) **Implementation:** Multiple schedules were introduced with signals indicating the availability and unavailability of reinforcement.
- b) **Signaled Reinforcement and Extinction:** Functional communications were reinforced during signaled periods; problem behaviors were not.
- c) **Discriminative Control:** Ensuring children respond appropriately by using signals to control communication responses.

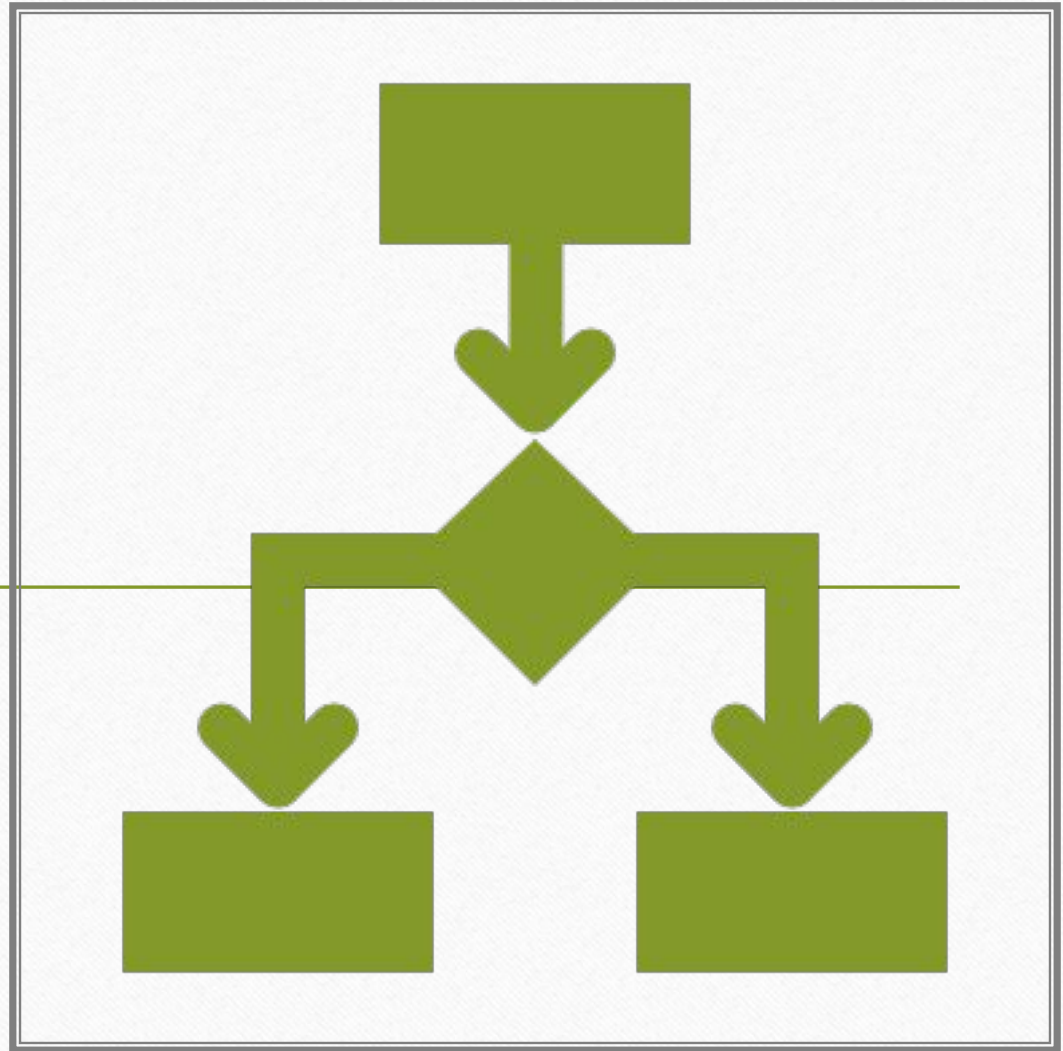
Outcome



- The study aimed to show that multiple schedules with signaled reinforcement and extinction periods could lead to:
 - a) Rapid acquisition and control of functional communication responses.
 - b) Significant reductions in problem behaviors.
 - c) Effective generalization across different settings and therapists.

Findings

Introducing multiple schedules quickly improved functional communication and reduced problem behavior. These results were confirmed with a third participant using a traditional baseline, showing rapid reductions across settings.



Practical Implications

For Parents and Teachers:

The use of multiple schedules with signaled reinforcement and extinction periods can make FCT more manageable and effective in real-world settings.

Behavioral Control:

This approach facilitates quick learning and control over appropriate communication behaviors, reducing problem behaviors efficiently.

Conclusion

- The study found that using multiple schedules with signaled reinforcement and extinction in FCT quickly brought communication responses under control and kept problem behaviors at near-zero rates across different settings and therapists. The study ensures that children can apply appropriate behaviors in different situations with different caregivers



Reference

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