IMPACT OF FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP CONTINGENCIES ON ACTIVITY LEVELS OF OBESE ADOLESCENTS

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PSYC 6353: BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION

- Cipani, E. & Schock, K. (2011). Function Behavior Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment: A Complete System for Education and Mental Health Settings New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company
- Graduate students in Kinesiology
- Examples of activity behaviors
- Adolescent activity program
- Limited literature FBA in physical activity

Outline

- Physical Activity
- Importance
- Interventions
- Current Levels of Activity
- Functional Behavioral Assessment
- Potential Application
- Exercise Behaviors

Importance of Physical Activity

Youth

- Builds and maintains healthy bones, joints, muscles
- Helps with healthy weight control
- Adults
- Reduce risk of chronic disease (Type II Diabetes, asthma, bone and joint issues)
- Reduce risk of all-cause mortality by 31% (Haskell, 2007)
- Improves mood
- Reduces risk of depression and anxiety

Current Levels of Activity

- 42% of children age 6-11 meet recommendations
- 11.9% of adolescents
- 5% of adults aged 20 59
 (Troiano et. al, 2008)
- Compounding issues:
- 1 in 5 youth are obese
- Tripled since 1970
- 65% of adults overweight/obese
- Doubled in 20 years

Physical Activity Interventions

- Focus of interventions, government task forces
- Healthy People 2020
- Play 60
- CDC, AHA, USDHHS
- Physical activity interventions are typically
- group-based
- education-based
- action-based
- Largely ineffective
- Nearly 60% of people who adopt a new program drop out within the first 6 months) (Rhodes, 2010)
- Remain inactive

Falling Short

- Motivation labels cyclical reasoning
- Ignores long term v. short term conundrum
- Ignores physiologically aversive components
- Typically
- Group-based "one-size-fits-all"
- Education-based persuasion based
- Action-based goal-setting and self-monitoring
- Why not Function-based?

FBA in Exercise Settings

- Potential Application:
- Reduce blame on client (e.g. not 'motivation' but 'motivating operations')
- Individual programming (based on activity abating behavior)
- Target observable behaviors
- Address legitimate aversive component concerns
- Roll with Resistance (serve need in the same way)
- Check the Environment
- Check the Training strategies

Activity Abating Behaviors

- Behaviors that serve to maintain low levels of activity
- Often obstacles to physical activity promotion or adherence
- Prevent participant from receiving prescribed exercise treatments and benefits
- Avoidance behaviors (e.g. excessive socializing prior to or during transitions of exercise)
- Escape behaviors (e.g. taking unauthorized or prolonged breaks)

Current Study Parameters

<u>Setting – Project Mentor</u>

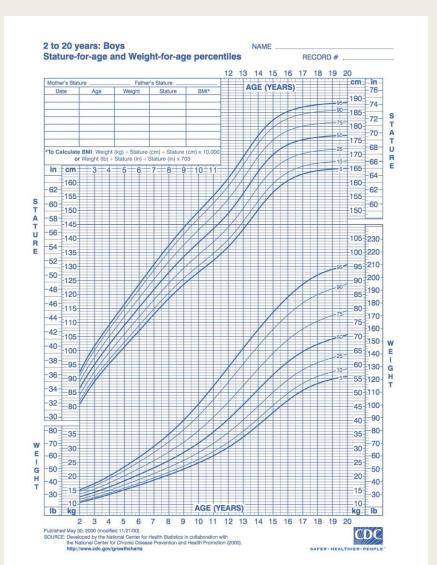
- 12-week program for activity promotion in obese/overweight population in rural eastern North Carolina
- 1-hour sessions on 3-nights per week of one-on-one supervised exercise
- Conducted in a full-service gym (cardio and weight-training equipment)
- Outdoor areas for alternate activities such as sports and games
- Polar heart rate monitor to gauge and report intensity

Participants

- 15 mentees 15 mentors
- Mentees aged 12 18 Adolescents 85% and above
- Mentors college seniors Kinesiology major students

Height/Weight Parameters

- Adolescents percentile ranking
- 85th percentile is considered overweight
- 95th percentile is obese
- Labels "overweight" and "obese" respectively, are often used in the literature.



Mentee Training

Setting:

- 12-week program for activity promotion in obese/overweight adolescent population
- 1-hour sessions on 3-nights per week of one-on-one supervised exercise
- Conducted in a full-service gym (cardio and weight-training equipment)
- Outdoor areas for alternate activities such as sports and games
- Polar heart rate monitor to gauge and report intensity

Mentor Training

- Semester-long training and course
 3 hours per week
- Motivational Interviewing
- Anti-Fat Bias
- Physical Training
- Progression
- Skill Acquisition
- Modification

FBA Addition:

- Target Behaviors
- 3-Term Contingency
- ABC Chart Recordings
- Data Collection
- Frequency
- Duration
- Functions
- Replacement Behaviors
- Intervention Implementation

Mentor Procedures

- Objectively define target behavior(s)
- ABC Chart Recordings
- Minimum of 5 sessions
- Use to hypothesize functions
- Collect Baseline Data
- Minimum of 5 full, 50 minute sessions
- Average duration/frequency used to determine schedule for intervention
- Reliability: 13 / 15 mentors had 1 full session of reliability. Average reliability: 87%
- Intervention Implementation
- Continue to collect daily data

Group Contingency Literature

- Supports the feasibility of group contingencies to promote desirable behaviors (Hulac, D. M., & Benson, N. 2010).
- Lend themselves to generalization by teaching appropriate behaviors rather than focusing on inappropriate ones
- Skill teaching, differential reinforcement, group contingency and self-management (Kamps, D., Conklin, C., & Wills, H. 2015).
- Applied intervention to whole class and individuals with EBD
- Difficulties include correct functional assessment by teachers and staff
- Training of staff, working one-on-one with BCBA and using examples can help with reliability and implementation (Ellingson, S. A., Miltenberger, R. G., Stricker, J., Galensky, T. L., & Garlinghouse, M. 2000).

Commonly Observed Target Behaviors

- Ceasing all movement (stopping all foot movement for 30 seconds or more)
- Ceasing vigorous-moderate movement (HR below 160 bpm)
- Refusal 'saying no'
- Asking 'why'
- Cell-phone use
- 'Hurting'
- Hugs instead of running
- Walking away (with attitude)
- Runs and hides

Participant	Antecedent (A)	Behavior (B)	Consequence (C)	
JC	High-intensity exercise	Verbal complaint of 'hurt'	Delay of or escape from exercise	
lan	A: Weighing in at beginning of evening B: Moderate to intense activity	A: Attempts to distract with conversation and physically cover numberB: Begins unrelated conversation and slows pace	A: Delays process and receives adult attention B: Slows activity and receives adult attention	
Heba	Playing group activity	Initiates more sedentary rule for game	Cessation or delay or moderate to vigorous activity	
Alexus	A: Playing group game B: Moderate to vigorous activity	A: Walks away B: Walks away	A: Cessation of activity B: Cessation of activity	
Jaysean	A: Warm-up activity B: Playing group game	A: Begins conversation B: Tells unrelated story	A: Cessation of exercise and receives adult attention B: Cessation of activity and access to peer attention	Table 1 ABC Char Recording
Tori	Moderate exercise	Picks up and uses cell phone	Ceases activity and accesses cell phone	
Nor	Walking or jogging (i.e. moderate to intense exercise)	Slows pace below moderate level or ceases movement	Escape from moderate to vigorous activity	
Jacob	A: Exercise beginning B: Transition to next activity	A: Talks with nearby friend B: Begins unrelated conversation	A: Escape from exercise B: Delay of upcoming exercise	
Ben	Initiation of activity	Engages in unrelated and unsolicited conversation	Delay of exercise	
Q	High intensity exercise	Ceases activity after average of 1 minute	Escape from high intensity exercise	
Aradamir	Jogging (i.e. moderate to intense exercise)	Ceases activity after average of 3 minutes	Lowers activity level to light to moderate	

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ABC Charts

Mentee:		Mentor:						
Date/Time	Α	В	C					
		Changing the subject						
		to non-exercise						
		related items						
		Ignoring request to						
		exercise						
		Taking excessive						
		break						
		Talking instead of						
		exercising						
		Using cell-phone						
		instead of exercising						
		"let me show you"						
		Running and hiding						
		Stopping all						
		movement						
		Complaining of 'hurt'						
		Ceasing all movement						
		Saying 'no' and						
		refusing to exercise						
		Complaint 'this is stupid'						
		Asking 'why'						

Mentee: _____ Mentor: _____

Date/Time	Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence

Hypothesized Functions

- Although target behaviors may be similar in topography, the function can be very individualized
- May be plausible case for both Escape and Access
- Can only determine with further data collection
- Function further broken down
- Direct Escape
- Direct Access
- Socially-mediated Escape
- Socially-mediated Access

See Cipani, E., & Schock, K. M. (2011) for classification system

Antecedent	Behavior (of Mentee)	Consequenc e (What happens next)	Hypothesize d Function (Access)	Hypothesized Function (Escape)
Transition or 'down-time'	Hugs mentor instead of running	Gets hug and encouragem ent Delay or avoidance of exercise	Access to Attention or Pleasant Physical Stimulation	Escape Delay/Avoidanc e of Aversive Physical Stimulation/Diff icult Task

Participant	Target Behavior	Hypothesized Function	Classification
JC	Verbal behavior 'hurting' followed by cessation of exercise	Escape from aversive physiological stimulation	Socially mediated escape
lan	Distraction behaviors	Access to peer or adult attention	Socially mediated access
Heba	Exercise delay or cessation	Escape from aversive task	Direct escape
Alexus	Walk-aways	Escape from aversive task	Direct escape
Jaysean	Excessive conversation	Access to adult or peer attention	Socially mediated access
Tori	Excessive cell phone use	Access to tangible	Direct access
Nor	Slowing pace below moderate intensity or cessation	Escape from difficult task	Direct escape
Jacob	A: Transition to next exercise B: High intensity exercise interval	Escape from aversive task	Socially mediated escape
Ben	Unrelated and unsolicited conversation	Escape from aversive task	Socially mediated escape
Q	Cessation of movement during high intensity exercise	Escape from aversive physiological stimulation or difficult task	Direct escape
Aradamir	Cessation of jogging	Escape from difficult task	Direct escape

Table 2 • Target behaviors, hypothesized functions and classifications

Baseline Data

	Duration/La	tency Recording							
Student:									
Observer:									
Behavior: Behavior initiation:									
Behavior initiation:									
Behavior termination: Total time Recorded:									
Date		Time	Duration						
	Response Initiation	Response Termination							

Whole Interval Recording Form

Student's Name:	Teacher:	
Subject/Period:	Date(s):	
Behavior Definition (in specific, observable, measur	<u>able</u> terms):	
Total Observation Time:	-	ach interval:

Date	Interval #									Total times	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	behavior occurred (X)
O or X											

Date		Interval #										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	behavior occurred (X)	
O or X												

Date		Total times									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	behavior occurred (X)
O or X											

				val #					Total times
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	behavior occurred (X)
	•	2 3	2 3 4	2 3 4 5					

Behavior Goals

- The goal for seven of the adolescents (participants 1 through 7) was to decrease the number of occurrences (frequency) of their target behaviors.
- The goal for two of the adolescents (participant 8 and 9) was to decrease total time (duration) of target behaviors.
- Finally, for two of the adolescents (participants 10 and 11) the goal was to increase time spent (duration) performing positive exercise behaviors.

Participant	Hypothesized Function	Classification	Replacement Behavior
JC	Escape from aversive physiological stimulation	Socially mediated escape	Differential Reinforcement of Lowered Rates of Behavior
lan	Access to peer or adult attention	Socially mediated access	Differential Reinforcement of Lowered Rates of Behavior
Heba	Escape from aversive task	Direct escape	Non-Contingent Escape
Alexus	Escape from aversive task	Direct escape	Non-Contingent Escape
Jaysean	Access to adult or peer attention	Socially mediated access	Differential Reinforcement of Lowered Rates of Behavior
Tori	Access to tangible	Direct access	Omission Training (DRO)
Nor	Escape from difficult task	Direct escape	PreMack Principle
Jacob	Escape from aversive task	Socially mediated escape	Tolerance Training with Non-Contingent Escape
Ben	Escape from aversive task	Socially mediated escape	PreMack Principle
Q	Escape from aversive physiological stimulation or difficult task	Direct escape	PreMack Principle
Aradamir	Escape from difficult task	Direct escape	Shaping

Table 3 • Replacement behaviors based on hypothesized function classification

Preference Assessment

Please rank-order your most to least favorite items below:

- 5- minutes free time to choose own exercises
- 5-minute exercise break
- water bottle
- 5-minute phone break
- 5-minute water break
- 5-minute 'free chat' break
- choose group game

- 5-minutes mentee train the mentor
- 5-minutes of strength training
- 5-minutes of equipment
- 5-minute free walk
- 5-minutes of music with exercise
- Zumba/dance workout
- 5-minutes of stretching
- healthy snack (fruits, veggies, nuts)

Please	rank-order your most to least favorite items below: 1=Favorite
0	5- minutes free time to choose own exercises
0	5-minute exercise break
0	water bottle
0	5-minute phone break
0	5-minute water break
0	5-minute 'free chat' break
0	choose group game
0	5-minutes mentee train the mentor
0	5-minutes of strength training
0	5-minutes of equipment
0	5-minute free walk
0	5-minutes of music with exercise
0	Zumba/dance workout
C	
c	healthy snack (fruits, veggies, nuts)

Research Design

- Changing criterion in independent group contingency 'Good Behavior Game' – Token System
- Phase 1: Week 1: 3 points
- Phase 2: Week 2: 5 points
- Phase 3: Week 3: 7 points
- Board of Achievement
- Names, points, reinforcers
- Contingency mapping prompts

Good Behavior Game

- Mentor intro:
- I have been walking around noticing some behaviors we can improve upon
- Everyone gets their own goal and how to earn points
- Posted point board with names, columns for points, preferred R
- Able to post own points using markers, stickers
- Points earned my meeting 'goal for the day'

Room for Improvement

<u>Alexus</u>

- Target:
- Currently taking 6 phone breaks per night
- Goal:
- Take 5 phone breaks per night
- How to:
- Decide ahead of time when the break will be (ex. After a hard activity, at different times during the night 7:10, 7:20, 7:30 pm)
- Earn 1 point:
- Every night you only use your phone 5 times
- Every time you don't use the phone when you might have before

Jacob III		5-minutes to choose own exercises
Heba		5-minutes of music w/ workout
Tori		Healthy snacks
Hadamin		5-minutes to choose own exercises
Q		Choose group games
lan		choose group game
Ben		waterbottle
Alexinis		Healthy Snack
HERUIS		5-minutes mentee train mentor
Makaula	2	amba/dance workout
1 TARAYIA II	6-n	ninutes choose own exercises
Tyler	Choose group game Zumba/dance workout	
Nor *	Zum	
NICK		

Contingency Mapping





Results

- The goal for seven of the adolescents (participants 1 through 7) was to decrease the number of occurrences (frequency) of their target behaviors.
- The goal for two of the adolescents (participant 8 and 9) was to decrease total time (duration) of target behaviors.
- Finally, for two of the adolescents (participants 10 and 11) the goal was to increase time spent (duration) performing positive exercise behaviors.

Participant 1. For JC, the target behavior was cessation of exercise by complaining that he was 'hurting'.

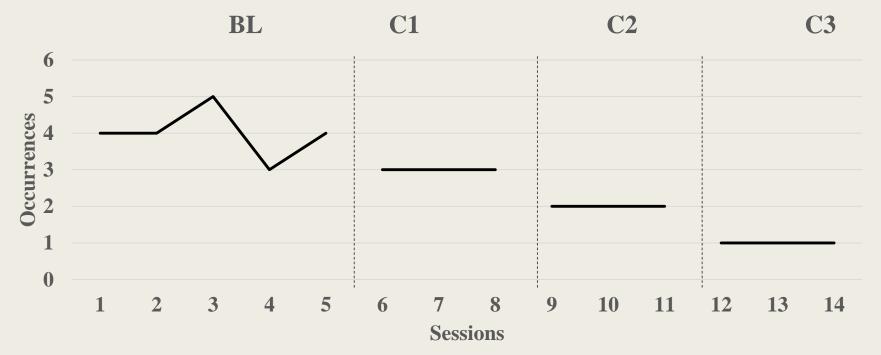


Figure 1. Occurrences of complaining of 'hurting' and escape behavior. Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3. *Participant 2.* For Ian, the target behaviors were distraction and unrelated behaviors for which he received attention from the mentor, so the function was deemed to be socially mediated access.

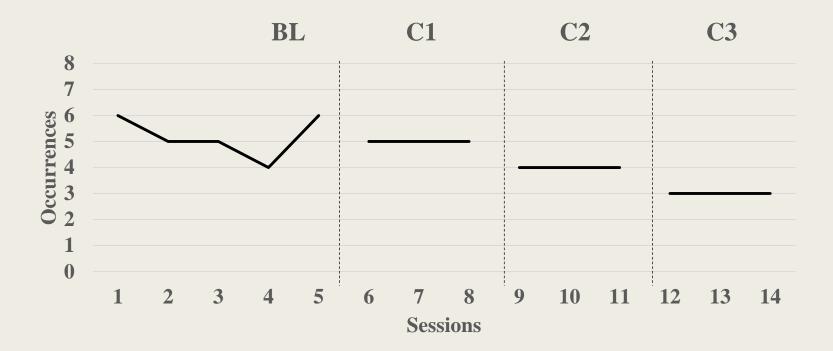


Figure 2. Occurrences of distracting behaviors Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3. *Participant 3.* For Heba the target behavior was exercise delay or cessation in the form of direct escape.

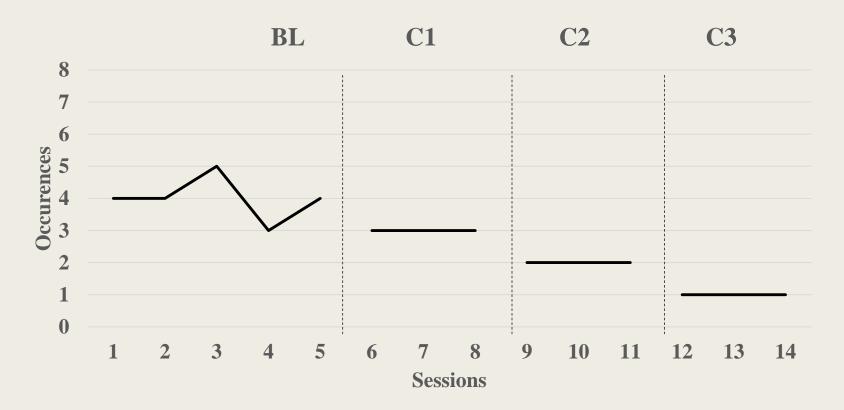


Figure 3. Occurrences of delay behaviors Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Participant 4. Alexus' target behavior consisted of walking away which functioned as direct escape.

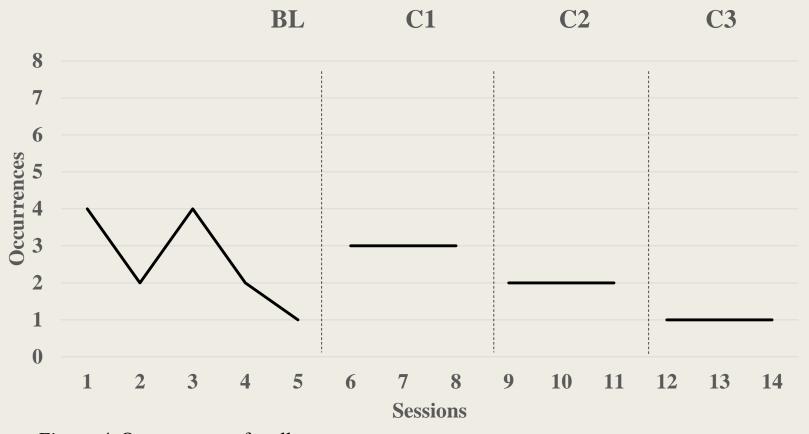


Figure 4. Occurrences of walk-aways Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Participant 5. For Jaysean the target behavior was excessive conversation which served the function of socially mediated escape.

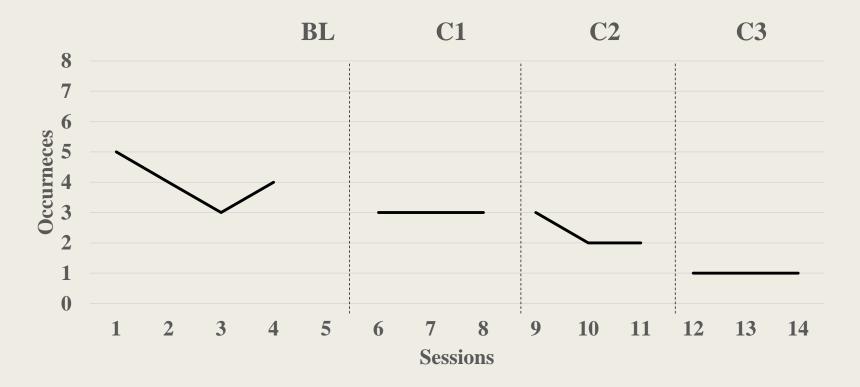


Figure 5. Occurrences of excessive conversation Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3. *Participant 6.* Tori engaged in excessive cell phone use which functioned as direct access to preferred items/activities.

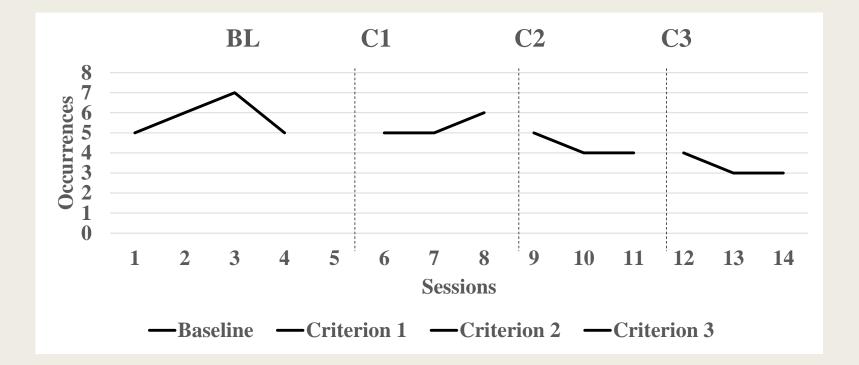


Figure 6. Occurrences of cell phone use Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Participant 7. Nor engaged in the target behaviors of slowing the pace below moderate intensity or cessation of exercise which functioned as direct escape.

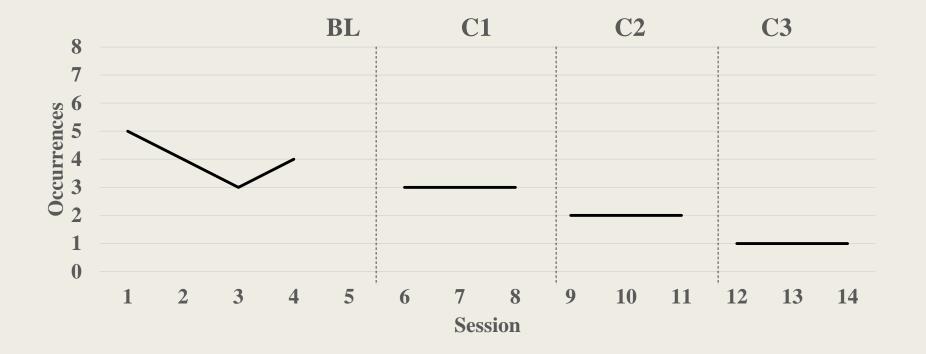


Figure 7. Occurrences of cessation

Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Results – Decrease Frequency

- Overall, for the first seven participants, the mean number of occurrences during baseline was 4.22.
- During the three intervention phases, the mean number of occurrences was 3.33, 2.45, and 1.61, respectively.
- Although the criterion for reinforcement varied across participants, they all exhibited a steady decline in the target behavior, each close to and/or matching the criterion.

Participant 8. Jacob engaged in unrelated and excessive conversation which functioned as socially mediated escape.

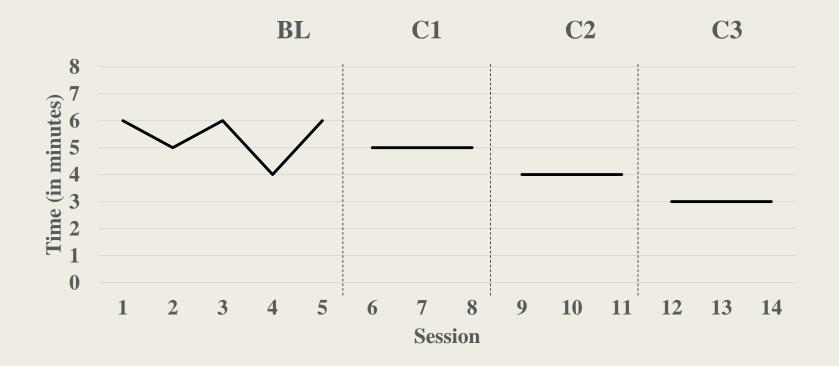


Figure 8. Time spent in conversation.

Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Participant 9. Ben engaged in unrelated conversation which functioned as socially mediated escape.

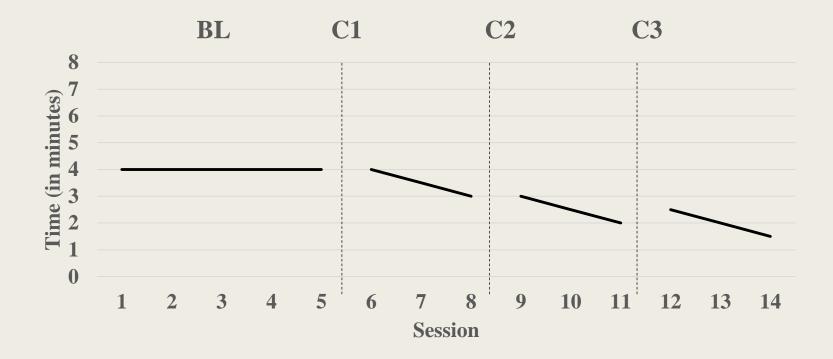


Figure 9. Time spent in excessive conversation. Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Results – Decrease Duration

- For participants 8 and 9, the average duration at baseline was 4 minutes and 32 seconds.
- During the three intervention phases, the average duration was 4 minutes and 15 seconds, 3 minutes and 15 seconds, and 2 minutes and 30 seconds, respectively.
- Although the criterion for reinforcement varied across participants, they both exhibited a steady decrease in duration of activity abating behavior.

Participant 10. Q exhibited cessation of movement during of high intensity exercise which functioned as direct escape. The goal for Q was to increase the average number of minutes per bout of high intensity exercise.

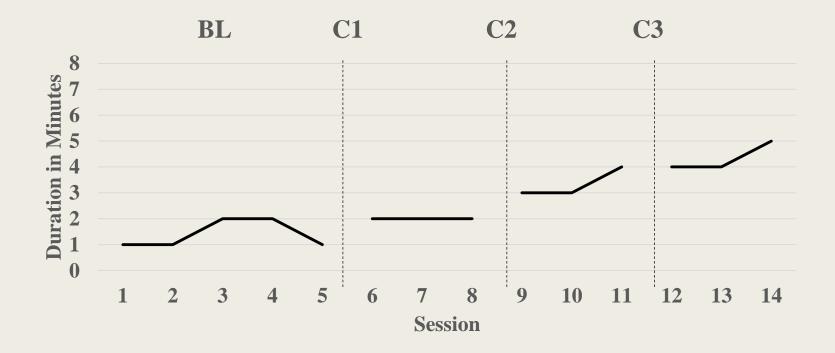


Figure 10. Average minutes per bout of high intensity exercise Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Participant 11. For Aradamir the goal was to increase the time he spent jogging, since the target behavior was the cessation of jogging which functioned as direct escape.

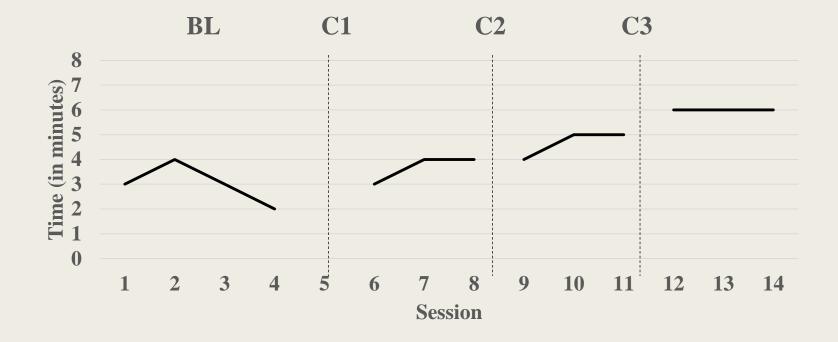


Figure 11. Time spent jogging Note. BL = Baseline; C1 = Criterion 1; C2 = Criterion 2; C3 = Criterion 3.

Results – Increase Duration

- For participants ten and eleven, the average duration at baseline was 2 minutes and 12 seconds.
- During the three intervention phases, the mean number of occurrences was 2 minutes and 50 seconds, 3 minutes and 59 seconds, and 5 minutes and 9 seconds, respectively.
- Although the criterion for reinforcement varied across participants, they each exhibited a steady increase in positive exercise behaviors.

Effectiveness

- Shaping activity behaviors
- Longer exercise times (i.e. moderate to vigorous)
- Fewer breaks
- Longer time between phone use
- Mentors Observations:
- Anecdotally marked improvements in mentee behavior and 'attitudes'
- Rated overall effectiveness of FBA: 86%
- Rated overall feasibility of implementation: **79%**
- Mentees anecdotally enjoyed intervention, points, reinforcers

Implications

- Feasibility
- Mentor training
- Maintenance
- By increasing the criterion each week, essentially thinning the schedule of reinforcement
- Generalization
- Other health behaviors
- Other exercise settings

Conclusions

- Functional Assessment has a place in activity research
- **FBA** led to improved positive exercise behaviors
- Improved behaviors led to greater adherence to activity
- Provide opportunities for maintenance

Discussion

- Application of FBA in activity promotion settings
- Applicable
- Feasible
- Effective
- Potential of FBA in activity promotion as 'best practice'

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Thank you for your attention. QUESTIONS?

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