Collage Julie’s post week one discussion 2-1

Pavlov theory of conditioning was studying classical conditioning.  The classical conditioning approach is based more on a learning response; a response taught be having a stimulus, a cause and an effect (McSweeney& Murphy, 2014).  Pavlov theory is best known for his work with the dog.  He worked with the dog and taught him that by ringing a bell it meant that there would be food.  The bell was the conditioned stimulus, the saliva was the unconditioned response, and the food was the unconditioned stimulus (Uniview Worldwide, 1996).

Skinner’s theory was operant conditioning.  Skinner preferred the terms reinforced and reinforcer, he stated that something that was reinforced would more than likely come back (Uniview Worldwide, 1996).  Skinner’s Operant theory is based on behavior.  He believes that reinforcement will help to condition a person or animal, especially that of positive reinforcement.  If you continue to reward someone for good behavior, that person will more than likely continue that good behavior because of that reward (McSweeney& Murphy, 2014; Uniview Worldwide, 1996).

**The Researcher’s contribution to psychology theory and practice**

Skinner’s work is being used and practiced throughout psychology and practices around the world. Not only has his work been used to help kids with good behavior and positive reinforcement, but it’s also been used to help adults with alcoholism.  They have been able to use Skinner’s theory to associate alcohol with nausea so that it has helped people kick alcohol addiction (Uniview Worldwide, 1996).  This is a big break through when it comes to helping those with addictions. Positive punishment is also another part of Skinner’s theory, it’s pretty simple actually, Skinner uses an example of a stove.  If you place your hand on a hot stove, or even a curling iron, you are going to get burnt.  The response should and more than likely will be, you will not touch that stove or hot curling iron again.  That is a positive punishment.

An example of that I can relate to is this, when my daughter was around 3 years old, she locked herself in our bathroom.  When I popped the door open, she was crying and holding her finger.  When I asked what was wrong, she showed me her finger; she had got my razor and played with it, cutting her finger.  This is an example of positive punishment.  Yes, it shouldn’t have been on the side of the bathtub, but there are many things as parents that we probably shouldn’t have done over the years. It’s all trial and error.

**Examine the major theoretical approaches/ Evaluate any issues or cultural concerns**

Skinner’s theory is based with behavior approaches.  This theoretical approach is good in today’s society with everything going on around us, especially kids going to school online.  They need to be conditioned to understand that there are consequences for their actions when it comes to their schoolwork.  Teachers will be able to use Skinner’s approach to help encourage them to get their work done on time and turned in.  With many students not in a classroom this fall it will be difficult to stay engaged.  According to Rholetter (2013), education has been one of the biggest influencers of Skinner’s operant conditioning.

**APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct**

APA (n.d.) states that a psychologist will not do anything to violate human rights and will avoid all harm to patients, this will include animals as well.  As long as all animals and humans are treated with respect, not being started or mistreated, there is nothing wrong with Skinner’s approach.

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct (Links to an external site.). Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx

McSweeney, F. K., & Murphy, E. S. (Eds.). (2014). The Wiley Blackwell handbook of operant and classical conditioning. Retrieved from http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/

Rholetter, W. (2013). Operant conditioning. Salem Press Encyclopedia. Available from Research Starters database.

Uniview Worldwide (Producer). (1996). Classical and operant conditioning (Links to an external site.) [Video file]. Retrieved from https://fod.infobase.com/OnDemandEmbed.aspx?token=6541&wID=100753&plt=FOD&loid=0&w=640&h=480&fWidth=660&fHeight=530