

How social constructivism and
behaviourism approaches underpin
classroom practice.

In this scrapbook I will be demonstrating how theoretical approaches to learning underpin classroom practice. I will be referring to classroom strategies I use within my school setting. My school setting will be referred to school A throughout the scrapbook.

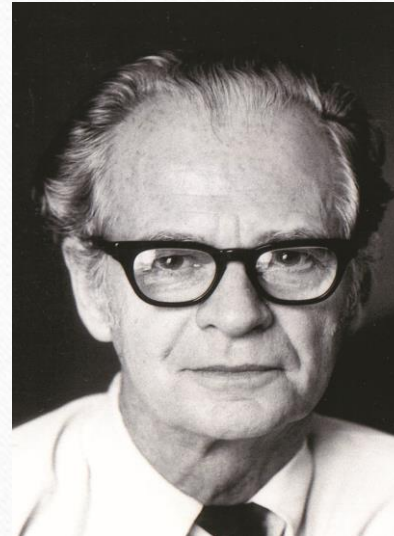
Lev Vygotsky (1896 – 1934)



(Enhanced Creativity n.d.)

Vygotsky wanted to prove that learning didn't just happen solely via being taught new information. Rather, he believed that cognitive functions are developed from social interactions, and thus learning also occurs when people (specifically young children) interact with others. (Nam 2019).

Burrhus Skinner (1904 – 1990)



(Blogspot 2019)

Operant conditioning is a method of learning that occurs through rewards and punishments for behaviour. Through operant conditioning, an individual makes an association between a particular behaviour and a consequence (Skinner, 1938).

Social Constructivism

Vygotsky theory shows an importance of social interaction with the development of cognition. Vygotsky strongly agrees that community plays a central role in the process of "making meaning" (McLeod 2018).

The Four Porpoises

School A have developed 4 purposes which are ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy. They have also turned the purposes into characters of the four Porpoises. The porpoises have a huge affect on the school work as we plan around the porpoises to make sure the children get every opportunity they can. School A has also produced a book about the porpoises and what the purpose is and how it is going to help with the children's learning.

The Donaldson Report focuses on developing children as:

- Amber:- to make children ambitious and to help them learn throughout their lives.
- Richie- to help children with enterprising and giving them every opportunity to learn real life skills.
- Ethel- to help them learn about Wales and other parts of the world.
- Heath- to keep the children healthy and make them confident within themselves. (School A website)

Pop up Shop

School A staff and pupils made a decision to open up a pop up shop. The Vygotsky approach fits in with this because it is giving the children a great opportunity to learn that community is important for learning, they are also learning real life skills.

Super teams' football

Teacher's on the ball helping pupils thrive with ALN

Super teams football is set up for the STF units. It is giving them the opportunity to interact and socialise with other schools within the community.

The true direction of the development of thinking is not from the individual to the social, but from the social to the individual.

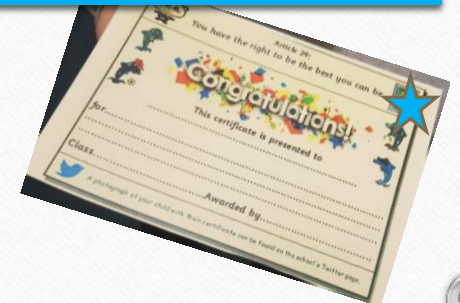
— Lev S. Vygotsky —

AZ QUOTES

(AZQuotes)

Special Mention (Funtime Friday)

Special mention assembly is held every Friday afternoon. Children will receive a certificate for being helpful to friends, improving on their work and trying their best with everything. For the children chosen to have the certificate they will then be rewarded with fun time Friday where they can play games and just have fun.



Behaviourism- Operant conditioning

Skinner believed that we do have such a thing as a mind, but that it is simply more productive to study observable behaviour rather than internal mental events (McLeod 2018).

Positive reinforcement strengthens a behaviour by providing a consequence an individual finds rewarding.
(McLeod 2018)

The way positive reinforcement is carried out is more important than the amount.

B. F. Skinner

(quotesgram)

The Mood Monster/feelings garden



The mood monster and feelings garden are designed for children to express how they are feeling. It also gives the teachers an insight on how the child is feeling, for example if the child is feeling angry teachers will be able to stop the behaviour from progressing.



Calm Castle

To stop the behaviour from progressing school A have set calm down area's in every classroom. For example my classroom uses the calm castle which are supplied with objects such as stress ball, fidget spinners, light up balls. Having these objects will help the child calm down and give them the opportunity to talk about why they may be so angry.



Star of the day award

The star of the day award is offered to the child who has behaved well, completed their work and tried their hardest. This is operant condition because it motivates the child to behave everyday because we give them a price reward for becoming the star of the day.



ClassDojo

ClassDojo is a positive reinforcement because they are given points for good behaviour etc. If they reach 50 points they receive a certificate, 100 points they receive 1 price from the head teacher and 150 points they receive 2 prices from the head teacher. By doing this children will tend to behave a lot more because they want to receive the prices.



Conclusion

In this scrapbook I have written about how Vygotsky and Skinner's theoretical approaches underpin classroom practice. In my school setting these approaches work well with helping children learn. School A is giving the children the opportunity to learn by socialising with the community and also making them realise positive reinforcement decreases their bad behaviour and that they will receive rewards for good behaviour. These approaches may not work for every child as some children have trouble socialising with other people and they may not be able to help the way they behave so there for as a school we would have to think about the approaches and adapt them a little to suit the child to make sure they are learning to their full potential.

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