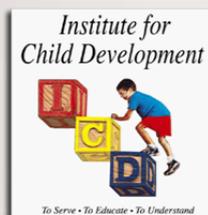




Chapter 3.2 Part 7

Skill Development Sequences: Fading



Learning Objectives

- Define fading.
- Define within-stimulus fading.
- Define extra-stimulus fading.

What is Fading?

- **Fading** is a process of gradually removing prompts as the behavior begins to occur within the teaching situation (Cooper et al., 2007).



Fading

- **Fading of response prompts** to naturally occurring stimuli is the end goal of a prompting procedure.
- For example if Ted wants to teach Olivia to write her name and he starts with physical prompting, he could use a fading procedure to fade back the prompt level.

Fading

- **Stimulus fading** is the gradual elimination of a stimulus prompt as the behavior continues to occur in the learning situation (Cooper et al., 2007).
- **Stimulus fading procedures:**
 - Within-stimulus fading
 - Extra-stimulus fading

Stimulus Fading Procedures

- **Within-stimulus fading** is the gradual change of the discriminative stimulus from an altered or intensified form to its natural form (Miltenberger, 2004).

Example of Within-Stimulus Fading

(Miltenberger, 2004)

- The instructor initially taught Joanne to discriminate the exit and enter signs by making the exit sign larger.
- The instructor gradually fades out the size difference of the signs by making the exit sign the same size as the enter sign.



Stimulus Fading Procedures

- **Extra-stimulus fading** is the gradual removal of the additional stimulus prompt as the response begins to occur reliably in the presence of the discriminative stimulus (Miltenberger, 2004).

Example of Extrastimulus Fading

(Miltenberger, 2004)

- Will's instructor marked his right hand with an "X" to help him distinguish his right hand from his left.
- As Will improves at this, his instructor gradually fades out the intensity of the "X" on his hand until it is completely removed.

