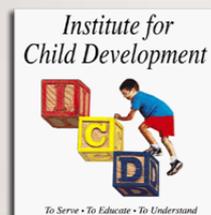




Chapter 3.2 Part 9

Skill Development Sequences: Task Analysis and Chaining



Learning Objectives

- Define task analysis.
- Define behavior chain.
- Identify the 3 types of behavioral chains.
- Define each of the 3 types of behavior chains.

What is Task Analysis?

- A **task analysis** is a process of breaking a complex skill into smaller, more manageable units. These units are typically ordered into sequential steps or tasks (Cooper et al., 2007).

Example of Task Analysis

(Bailey & Wolery, 1992)

- **Target Skill: Shoe Tying.**
 - Partially tighten shoelaces.
 - Pull shoelaces tight--Vertical pull.
 - Cross shoelaces.
 - Tighten shoelaces--Horizontal pull.
 - Tie shoelaces into a knot.
 - Make a bow and tighten it.

Conducting a Task Analysis

(Cooper et al., 2007)

- Breaking a skill into the appropriate units of learning can be a difficult.
- Helpful tips:
 - Observe the skill in competent individuals.
 - Consult with people who are highly skilled in target skill.
 - Perform the skill personally to see what steps are needed.

Chaining

- **Chaining** is a teaching procedure that links various simple responses together to make a more complex behavior (Newman et al., 2003).
- Chaining is a useful tool for teaching complex sequences of skills that can enhance independent living skills (Cooper et al., 2007).

How to Use Chaining

(Cooper et al., 2007)

- The first step in chaining is to conduct a task analysis, which is used to identify skills that will be taught in the chain.
- Once the skills are identified, teaching can begin.
- As each skill is mastered, a new skill from the chain is taught and reinforcement is provided for performance of all learned skills in the correct order.

Chaining Methods

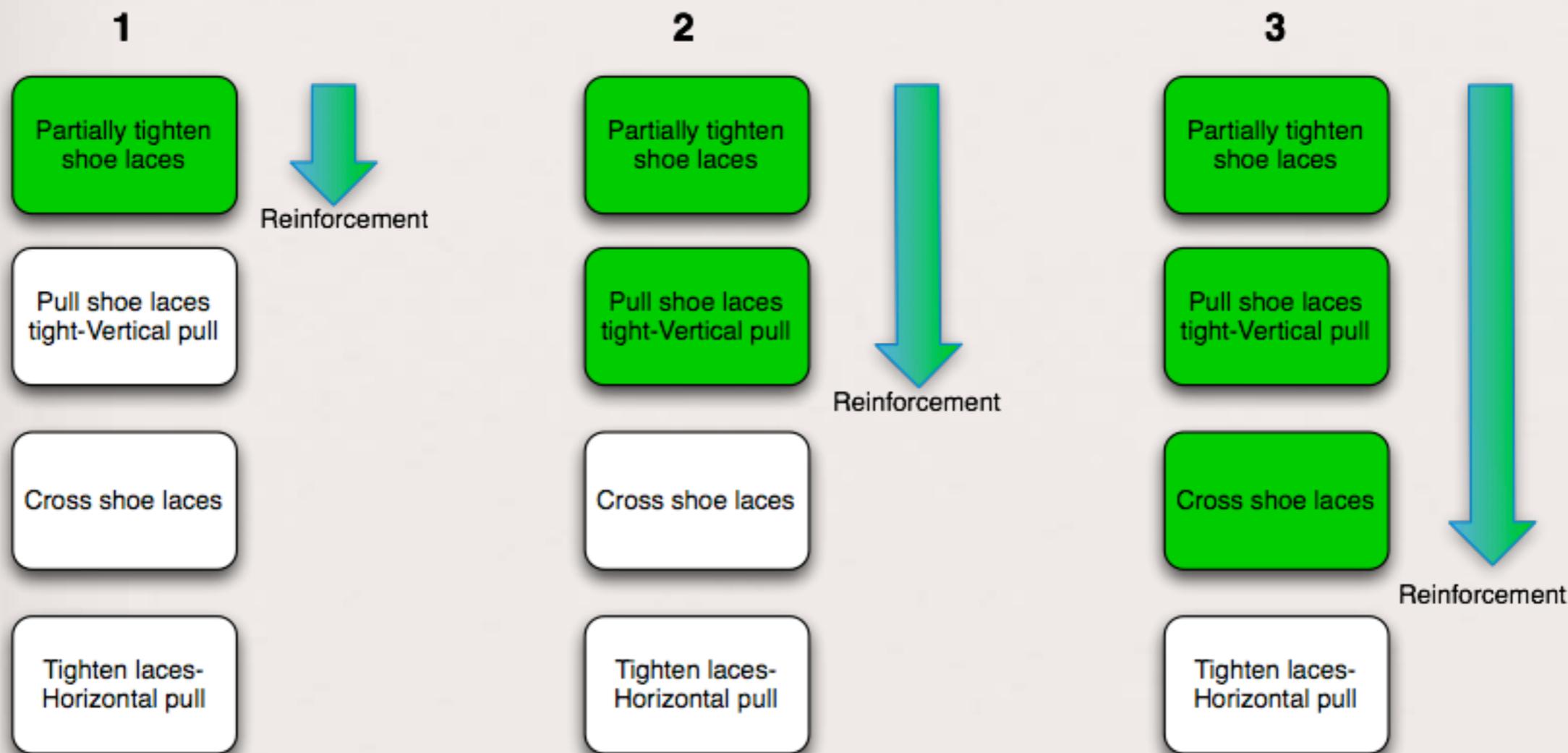
- **Three types of chaining methods:**
 - Forward chaining
 - Backward chaining
 - Total task presentations

Types of Chaining

- **Forward chaining** involves teaching skills in their naturally occurring order (Cooper et al., 2007).

Example of Forward Chaining

(Bailey & Wolery, 1992)

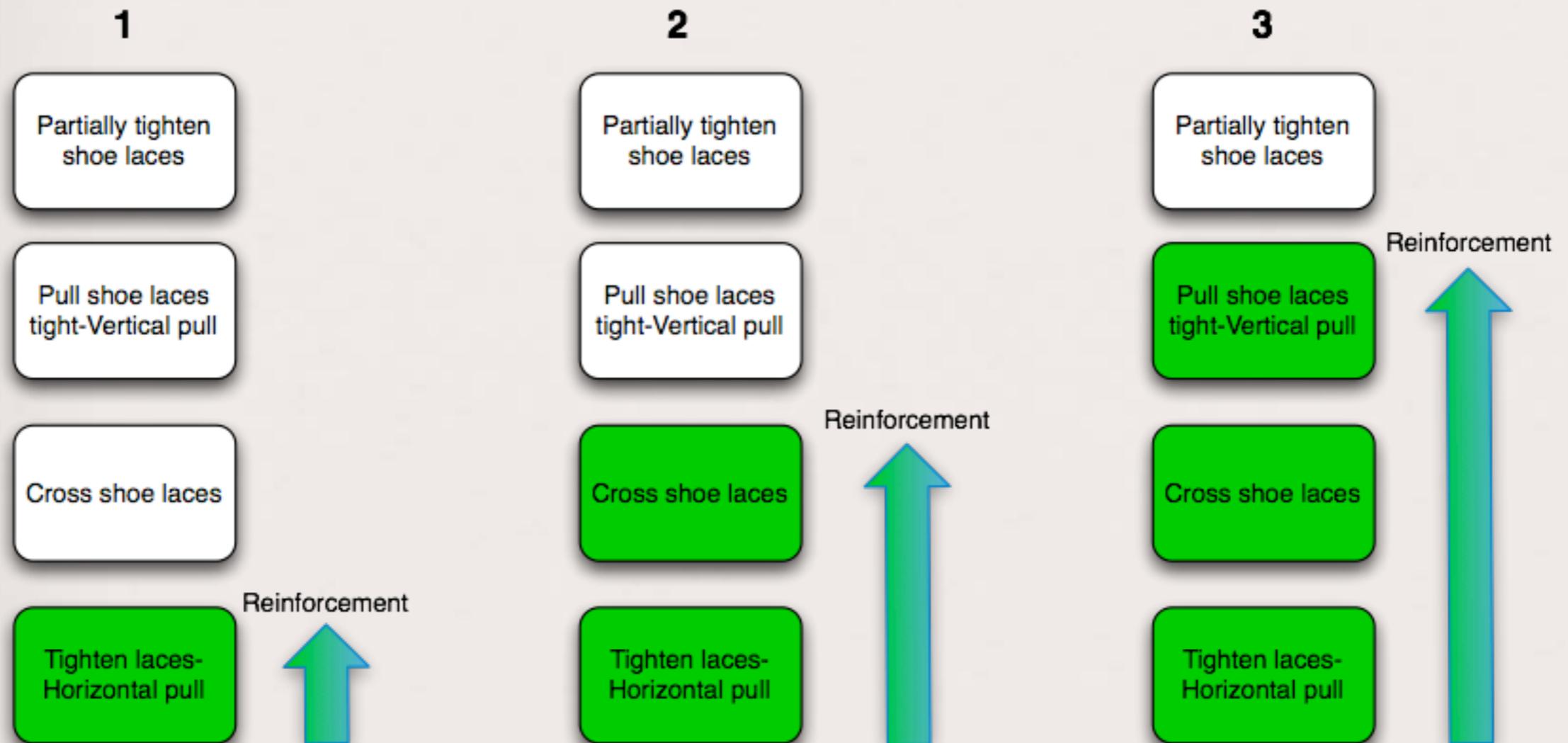


Types of Chaining

- **Backward chaining** involves teaching the skill starting with the last skill in the chain (Cooper et al., 2007).

Example of Backward Chaining

(Bailey & Wolery, 1992)



Types of Chaining

- **Total task presentations** involves teaching all the skills identified in the task analysis all at once (Cooper et al., 2007).

Example of Total Task Presentation

(Bailey & Wolery, 1992)

