Learning Theories
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What are the purposes of Learning Theories?
To add reason and understanding to known or learned best practices.

To understand how the learning process works in students.

To be a more effective educator.
Behaviorism
Behaviorism - Background

Came about through a combination of the biology/psychology sectors

Focused on learning in animals and humans

Observation of learned behaviors in animals
What is Behaviorism?

- Instructor delivered content
- Learner is passive!
- Feedback system
What is Behaviorism?

- Reinforcement and punishment
- Basis of rote learning
- Standard format of instructor lectures and student audience
Behaviorism Application

- Largely still used in Pre-K
- Still used at the higher education and K-12 levels for lectures
- But, largely moving away from solely behaviorism
Example of Behaviorism

- Educator lectures to students
- Students read from a textbook and rote memorize definitions, terms, and concrete ideas
- Students take exams that test them on terms, definitions and concrete ideas
Group Discussion

Share in chat some of the advantages and disadvantages to using elements of Behaviorism.
Constructivism

Also known as Cognitive Constructivism
Constructivism - Background

- Piaget’s concepts of schemas, accommodation and assimilation
What is Constructivism?

- Learning is based on past experiences
- These past experiences shape how learners take in and process new information
What is Constructivism?

- Learning is active
- Students construct knowledge instead of just acquiring it
- Educator is the facilitator
- Intrinsic motivation
- Process is as important as product (exam)
Constructivism Application

• Prevalent in common in K-12

• Growing trend in adult education

• But adults can bring in more pre-existing knowledge
Experiential Learning

- Hands-on experience
- Observation of and reflection on that experience
- Formation of concepts based upon the reflection of the experience
- Testing newly formed concepts
- Repeat the process
Example of Constructivism

- Open-ended questions
- Group-centric work
- Problem-solving
- Inquiry-based learning activities
- Experiments
Group Discussion

Share in chat some of the advantages and disadvantages to using elements of Constructivism.
Social Learning Theory

Also known as Social Constructivist
Social - Background

• Formed from the idea that stimulus-based learning could not explain language acquisition

• Studied by Albert Bandura, psychologist, (among others) who determined a comprehensive learning model was needed

• Combines concepts from behaviorism and constructivism and expands on them
What is Social Learning Theory?

• Observation is a key aspect of the learning process

• The learner is an active participant within their learning environment

• Learning is not only behavioral, but a cognitive process that takes place in a social context

• If desired results occur, individuals are more likely to adopt modeled behavior.
What is Social Learning Theory?

- Bobo doll experiments
- Commercials
Social Learning Theory Application

- Learning goals are determined by the learners themselves

  Leads to intrinsic motivation
  Extrinsic motivation still present as well
Social Learning Theory Application

- Collaborative style learning approach
  
  Learners work together

  Instructor facilitates and guides group learning
Social Learning Theory Application

• Student/Teacher engagement

Consistent, appropriate behaviors (handling disruptions)
Examples of Social Learning Theory

- Guest/Expert speakers
- Watching demonstration of professional - live or through video
- Group and exploratory activities
Group Discussion

Share in chat some of the advantages and disadvantages to using elements of Social Learning Theory.
Summary

There is no RIGHT learning theory
Dependent on your subject, class, situation, etc.
There are many other learning theories that stem from these
It may be appropriate to use aspects of many
Additional Questions?
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