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The Role of Instructional Modeling in Cognitive Development

Young children learn in a variety of ways, and with professional educators' assistance, they can transform the knowledge they acquire into helpful skills. Children often acquire knowledge by observing the external world and imitating others' behaviors and interactions with their environment (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016). The teacher modeling instructional strategy, or instructional modeling, reflects this way of relating. It involves simply and explicitly modeling a learnable skill and enabling young learners to repeat it independently. In modeling, participants undergo "behavioral, cognitive, and affective changes" after "observing the actions of others" (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016, p. 243).

Modeling is valuable in early childhood education because it allows young learners to gradually perform specific tasks. Without modeling, young learners may be expected to understand the idea behind a required skill without help. While precocious children may be able to see links between actions and results on their own, modeling provides the majority with a simple point of reference. Teacher modeling is particularly valuable, since many techniques involve dividing a skill into a set of easy-to-understand segments, allowing learners to understand the internal logic of an activity. The use of modeling during instruction enables young learners to learn new behaviors, use abilities they already possess, alter self-imposed restrictions on behavior, and experience specific emotions (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016).

Instructional modeling often employs fine arts and artistic activities, which are known to contribute to children's timely and healthy cognitive development (Baker, 2013). Such activities are widely used in early childhood centers, where instructional modeling can enable young learners to produce simple artworks. A teacher using modeling to explain how to create a

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Deleted: and therefore require ...professional educators' assistance, they can ...transform the knowledge they acquire into helpful skills. Children often acquire knowledge by observing the external world and imitating others' behaviors and the ways those individuals interact...interactions with their environment (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016). This worldview finds its reflection in the...he so-called ...teacher modeling instructional strategy, or instructional modeling, reflects this way of relating, which ...t involves simply and explicitly modeling a specific ...earnable skill and enabling young learners to repeat it independently. When broadly defined, ...n modeling,modeling is understood as...participants undergo "behavioral, cognitive, and affective changes" after "resulting from ...bservinging... [1]

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Deleted: , since ...t allows young learners to gradually perform specific tasks. Without modeling, young learners would be placed in situations of uncertainty, in which they which they would be...ay be expected to understand the idea behind a required skill without help. ¶ While there are undoubtedly intellectually ...recocious children who outperform their peers by finding...ay be able to see links between links between...the sequences of actions and results on their own, the absence of modeling during instruction for all children would deprive ...odeling provides the majority of learners of...ith a simplen...easy-to-follow ...oint of reference. Teacher modeling is particularly valuable, since many techniques involve dividing a skill into a set of easy-to-understand segments, allowing learners to understand the internal logic of an activity. The use of modeling during instruction enables young learners to lead to some valuable outcomes, including...learning...new behaviors, helping learners to...se abilities that...hey already possess, altering individuals'...lter self-imposed restrictions on behavior, and arousing ... [2]

Commented [JC3]: It might not be clear to readers why it would be desirable to provoke certain emotions during instruction. Recommend either providing a couple of examples of specific emotions or a brief explanatory phrase clarifying the purpose of provoking these emotions.

Deleted: Additionally, teacher modeling is extremely valuable, since many techniques involve dividing a skill into a set of simple and easy-to-understand segments, making it much easier for learners to understand the internal logic of the activity that they are supposed to complete.

Deleted: One way that educators can effectively employ... i...structional modeling is through...ften employs the...fine arts and artistic activities, which are known to contribute to children's timely and healthy cognitive development (Baker, 2013). Such activities are widely used in early childhood centers, where instructional modeling can be used to ...nable young learners to produce simple artworks. For instance, Aa...teacher might use ... [3]

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greeting card might begin by presenting the completed work as a reference. Then, the teacher might explain each step and show the children how to complete it, verbalizing their actions to ensure that all the students understand the purpose of each step. In the end, the students will understand the sequence of steps needed to transform a blank piece of paper into a beautiful work of art.

Deleted: with handprint flowers. The teacher ...ight introduce a series of steps, including ...egin by presenting the completed work as a reference and explaining the steps taken to produce the work... Then, the teacher might explain each step and show the children how to complete each step and verbalize...t, verbalizing their actions in order to make sure...o ensure that all the students understand the purpose of the actions they are performing...ach step. In the end, the students will understand the sequence of steps needed to transform a blank...empty ...iece of paper into a colorful greeting card and create a ... [5]

For young learners to understand new concepts and put them into practice, they must be able to engage in complex cognitive processes. Behaviorism offers one way to teach abstract values and social norms to young children. Behaviorism is a theory of learning that examines the interactions between external stimuli and behaviors, observing how the former can be manipulated to result in intentional, positive changes in learners' responses to situations (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016). Behaviorism originates in Ivan Pavlov's studies of classical conditioning in laboratory dogs, but its application to education draws more specifically on B.F. Skinner's theory of operant conditioning (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016). Skinner theorized that people learn quickly because they associate their behavior with either the desirable or the unwanted consequences of their actions. Positive and negative reinforcements may therefore motivate learners to engage in particular behaviors or, conversely, prevent them from taking actions regarded as unacceptable.

Deleted: The concepts that ...or young learners are expected to understand new concepts and put them into practice vary... they must be able in the extent to which their acquisition depends on the child's ability ...o engage in complex cognitive processes. Behaviorism can be successfully used...ffers one way to teach abstract values and social norms,...such as respect for peers, ...o young children. Behaviorism is a theory of learning that examines the interactions between external stimuli and behaviors, and the way...bserving how the former can be manipulated to result in intentional, positive changes in learners' responses to situations (Eggen & Kauchak, 2016). Behaviorism originates from ... [5]

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Through behaviorism, preschoolers and kindergarteners (3-5 years old) could be taught to follow social norms that are critical to their subsequent socialization, such as respecting peers and communicating with them in a polite way. Children in kindergarten, spend a lot of time playing, often engaging in collaboration and interpersonal communication (Welchons & McIntyre, 2017). To motivate young learners to be respectful toward peers, educators could use positive reinforcement to make politeness and respectfulness appear attractive and advantageous.

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Deleted: Applying ...through behaviorism, it would be possible to teach ...reschoolers and kindergarteners (3-5 years old) could be taught to follow social norms that are critical to their subsequent socialization. Examples that refer to universally recognized norms include... such as their respecting peers and communicating with them in a polite way. Children in kindergartens...spend a lot of time playing, and such activities often involv...ften engaging ine...the elements of ...ollaboration and interpersonal communication (Welchons & McIntyre, 2017). To motivate young learners to be respectful toward peers, it would be possible to resort to a set of...educators could use positive reinforcements...that would... [9]

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Children could receive rewards for patiently waiting their turn to play games, asking for permission prior to using their peers' toys, expressing gratitude, and so on. Rewards might include verbal praise or permission to play with a favorite toy. Educators could also use both positive and negative stimuli by introducing behavior charts and rewarding or removing stickers depending on children's attitudes toward others.

References

Baker, D. (2013). Art integration and cognitive development. *Journal for Learning through the Arts*, 9(1), 1-15.

Eggen, P. D., & Kauchak, D. P. (2016). *Education psychology: Windows on classrooms* (10th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.

Welchons, L. W., & McIntyre, L. L. (2017). The transition to kindergarten: Predicting socio-behavioral outcomes for children with and without disabilities. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 45(1), 83-93.

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