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THE IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT IN TODAY'S TEACHING

This article is devoted to the importance of creating positive atmosphere in the teaching process. In the given work trustworthy relationship between teachers and students is considered to be a link that leads to the desire of acquiring knowledge. In the studies, conducted by both Ukrainian and foreign scientists, it has been proven that positive behavior, reinforced and praised, tends to be repeated and students will choose more subconsciously to do well. At the same time their self-esteem is raised and better connection can be set among the students.

It is impossible to avoid negative behavior, especially nowadays when we feel so much disoriented and exhausted, but is in our power to redirect it, making sure the desired behavior is repeated. Teachers can always respond positively, by providing redirection, or refocusing their energy they will be able to direct students toward the wanted aim.

Moreover, accentuating the positive, building trust makes it possible to develop meta skills in our students and sincerity is seen as the most important one among them. That is why remembering our values and goals is the base of the responsible behavior of our students in the future. Constructive praise is closely connected with motivation and involvement of students in the lesson activities. They see that teachers show genuine interest in their performance and it will definitely increase productivity.

The relevance of the article lies in the need for the teachers to adjust to the modern realia so that students can become involved in the learning process. In the light of the current situation, the necessity of encouragement helps our students to adapt better, they feel appreciated and try even harder despite the obvious obstacles in their way.

Key words: *behavior; encouragement, positive reinforcement, praise, redirection, meta skills.*

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ВАЖЛИВІСТЬ АКЦЕНТУВАННЯ НА ПОЗИТИВНОМУ У НАВЧАННІ В ТЕПЕРІШНІЙ ЧАС

Ця стаття присвячена важливості створення позитивної атмосфери в навчальному процесі. У даній роботі довірчі стосунки між викладачами та студентами розглядаються як ланка, яка веде до бажання здобувати знання. У дослідженнях, проведених як українськими, так і зарубіжними вченими, було доведено, що позитивна поведінка, акцентована та схвалена, має тенденцію повторюватися, і учні більше підсвідомо вибирають успіх. У той же час їхня самооцінка підвищується, і між учнями можна встановити кращий зв'язок.

Неможливо уникнути негативної поведінки, особливо в наш час, коли ми відчуваємося настільки дезорієнтованими та виснаженими, але в наших силах перенаправити її, переконавшись, що бажана поведінка повторюється. Вчителі завжди можуть відповісти позитивно, забезпечивши переспрямування або переорієнтувавши свою енергію, вони зможуть скерувати учнів до бажаної мети.

Крім того, підкреслення позитиву, зміцнення довіри дає змогу розвивати в наших студентів мета навички, а щирість розглядається як найважливіша серед них. Тому пам'ятання про наші цінності та цілі є основою відповідальної поведінки студентів у майбутньому. Конструктивна похвала тісно пов'язана з мотивацією та залученням учнів до діяльності на уроці. Вони бачать, що вчителі виявляють щирий інтерес до їхньої роботи, і це безумовно підвищить продуктивність.

Актуальність статті полягає в необхідності пристосування вчителя до сучасних реалій для залучення учнів до навчального процесу. У світлі поточної ситуації необхідність заохочення допомагає нашим студентам краще адаптуватися, вони відчувають, що їх цінують, і стараються ще більше, незважаючи на очевидні перешкоди на їхньому шляху.

Ключові слова: поведінка, заохочення, позитивне акцентування, похвала, переспрямування, мета навички.

Problem statement. Nowadays both educators and students are facing challenging situations leading to the decrease in the desire to continue getting knowledge. There can be different reasons for this. Nevertheless, teachers possess all the necessary skills and techniques in influencing the positive attitudes. Taking into consideration the current situation, teachers should realize how much it depends on their encouragement and the importance of positive reinforcement has acquired new levels in the light of meta skills and their influence on the society.

Research analysis. The issues of positive reinforcement have been studied in the work of both foreign and Ukrainian authors: E.L. Thorndike, F.B. Skinner, L.G. Podolyak. With the challenges, thrown at our society, the aspect of building the necessary bridges between teachers and students, creating the atmosphere of trust and sincerity can be seen at a different angle. The data for the article were collected by means of lesson observation, interview with teachers and students.

The purpose of the article involves the analysis of the current situation in the educational system and the ways of improving strategies aimed at achieving greater results, trustworthy atmosphere during the lesson and developing skills urgent in the new century.

Presentation of the main material. Due to the current situation in our country it can be difficult to continue the educational process. Both teachers and students are doing their best to make sure this process is not only filled with knowledge exchange, but is based on establishing trustworthy relationship among its constituents. Our students can be in different parts

of our country or the world and experience technical difficulties at times. Nevertheless, they show much desire to study and are oriented at the results.

In this challenging time some students can feel worried, disoriented and sometimes not eager to study. That is why teachers need to pay more attention to every student, encourage and support them as much as possible. Especially nowadays we should see the best side of our students, redirect some unpleasant behavior and give them praise even for smaller steps in the process.

Unfortunately, under the current conditions in particular, students can show different from the expected behavior, sometimes negative, to some extent. It depends a lot on the teachers and their positive attitude how such situations progress and if they continue happening in the future.

Once again we can go back to that famous “whale-done” approach, expressed in the book about whales (Blanchard K, 2002), where we came across important ideas, one of them lies in the importance of building trust. So, in the realia our lessons are taking place now, we need to make sure there is that type of relationship in the classroom (even though online) leading to trust. Also, if we talk about the “whale story”, we can recall the importance of creating that atmosphere of fun helping to learn and develop.

It is important to encourage the right behavior even if we see something different from the expected one. A lot depends on the ability to redirect or refocus the energy of our students. Redirections are defined as instances when a teacher invites students to shift or redirect their attention to a new focus. Such shifts reflect different types of teacher responsiveness and, as

such, can be used to capture the different ways in which teachers take up their students' ideas (Diedrich, 2010).

And, of course, it is a good idea to concentrate on the positive behavior, trying not to pay attention to the negative one as people crave for attention. So, there will be more possibility that the right attitude will be remembered.

We need to praise our students for every small step they are making nowadays as we understand how complicated it might be for them to adjust, to keep going despite all the obstacles in their way. Students will see we understand and value their effort. Our encouragement can serve as that important link for them to get connected to the educational process and their fellow students.

It is important for certain behavior to have a positive outcome so that it can be repeated in the future. And this is where positive reinforcement occurs (Cherry, 2018).

Positive reinforcement happens when a certain behavior results in a positive outcome, making the behavior likely to be repeated in the future. This behavioral psychology concept can be used to teach and strengthen behaviors (Belsky, 2008).

Skinner's model of operant conditioning is based on the assumption that studying a behavior's cause and its consequences is the best way to understand and deal with it. This theory grew from Thorndike's "law of effect" which stated that a behavior that is followed by pleasant or desirable consequences is likely to be repeated, while behavior that is followed by undesirable consequences is less likely to be repeated (McLeod, 2018).

There are many different types of reinforcers that can be used to increase behaviors, but it is important to use them depending on the individual and the situation. We expect to come across natural reinforcers during the lessons as students who study hard, pay attention in class and do their homework get excellent grades. Teachers may express approval of a behavior with social reinforcers with "Good job" or "Excellent work".

Positive reinforcement can serve as a helping tool in creating comfortable atmosphere during the lesson. Students tend to be friendlier, more tolerant, compassionate towards each other. It is only positive reinforcement if it increases the likelihood that the behavior occurs again. Positive reinforcement leads to a sense of responsibility in students and helps them work harder to achieve tasks because they can look forward to receiving praise or a reward for their efforts.

Such behavior is likely to be repeated, its occurrence depends on several different factors, but it is mostly important to provide the desirable stimulus as soon as possible after the desired behavior is per-

formed; the more time passes between the behavior and the reward, the weaker the connection is and the more likely is the possibility of some intervening behavior that might accidentally be reinforced (Cherry, 2018).

People often find positive reinforcement easier to accept than other methods of training, as it doesn't involve taking anything away or introducing a negative consequence.

It's also much easier to encourage behaviors than to discourage them, making reinforcement a more powerful tool than punishment in most cases.

That is really important, positive reinforcement can simply be more effective, especially in the long-term. Learning accompanied by positive feelings and associations is more likely to be remembered, even beyond the end of the reinforcement schedule.

Everybody can be mistaken and the educational process is built in such a way that it is impossible to avoid criticizing. And constructive praise becomes more important than giving constructive advice. In the process of teaching it acts as powerful motivation and encouragement. Students need to know that their teacher is interested in them and cares for their success. It is important due to the fact that it brings motivation, students feel like studying better and showing better results in order to get praise from someone who respects them.

Positive reinforcement and redirection can help increase productivity. Students realize their positive attitude is in the center of our attention, they are eager to do more and achieve better results.

Praise is really important in the learning process as it helps to bring out the best in our students. At the same time we need to make sure our students don't depend on it, it is timely and we create an environment in which students do what is right, even when nobody is watching.

The teacher should be interested in showing genuine interest in the lesson and the students' answers. Learning is a reciprocal process, so we can learn from our students, get new ideas and encouragement to move on.

Sincerity in communication process is a meta skill serving a base for the other ones. Our ability to be real selves is often challenged. We need to be true to ourselves, remember our values and goals despite the everyday pressure. The students can feel we are oriented at honesty with ourselves and others and should always be ready to be responsible for their judgments, mistakes and decisions.

Conclusions. In the result of the conducted research, it was established that there are unique benefits to positive reinforcement. In spite of the obstacles in teaching we should not forget about the

importance of praise and well-done approach making sure students feel supported and devoted to the educational process. Students see that we value what they do and it leads to building trustworthy atmosphere in class. Sincerity is seen as an important meta skill that is needed in the modern society.

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