COMPARISON OF EXTINCTION, DRO 0-SEC, AND DRO 6-SEC
IN THE ELIMINATION OF IMITATIVE RESPONDING UNDER
DISCRETE-TRIAL PARADIGMS¹

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Imitative response levels were observed for normal 5-yr-old children within a discrete-trial imitation paradigm. Following imitation training sessions, children were observed under conditions of contingent reinforcement for three experimental sessions. Following the contingent reinforcement phase, children were then observed under reversal conditions for four sessions. A 3×4 repeated measures design was employed for observing response decrements under conditions of extinction, DRO 6-sec, and DRO 0-sec. The DRO 0-sec group demonstrated a significantly greater decrement in imitative responding than did the DRO 6-sec and extinction group. The differences in effects between the two DRO conditions and results from previous studies in which DRO procedures have had little effect in reducing imitative responding, suggest an incomplete understanding of the ways in which DRO procedures may operate.

DESCRIPTORS: differential reinforcement of other behavior, discrete-trial imitations, extinction, preschool children

Received 16 May 1974.

(Final acceptance 30 June 1976.)

¹The full text of this manuscript is deposited with the National Auxiliary Publications Service (NAPS). For copies, order NAPS document #02882. Order from ASIS/NAPS Co., c/o Microfiche Systems Corporation, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Remit with order for each copy \$3 for microfiche or \$3 for photocopies. Make checks payable to Microfiche Publications.

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