



Classical Conditioning – “Little Albert’s” Situation

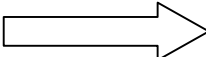


WHITE RAT (CS) Before conditioning, a WHITE RAT was neutral with respect to the response being studied, fear. Albert’s initial attitude toward the rat was one of curiosity and general interest. In fact, he gave every indication that he wished to play with it.

LOUD SUDDEN NOISE (UCS) Before conditioning, a LOUD SUDDEN NOISE was shown to produce a fear response (UCR) naturally, without prior learning. It is inborn.

WHITE RAT (CS) + LOUD NOISE (UCS)  **FEAR (UCR)** 

During conditioning, the WHITE RAT & the LOUD NOISE are repeatedly paired with each other. After conditioning, just seeing the WHITE RAT was sufficient to cause Albert to show his distress. Since his distress (fear) was now being elicited in the presence of a previously neutral stimulus, we call this new learned behavior a conditioned reflex or response, a CR.

WHITE RAT(CS)  **FEAR (CR)**