

Classical Conditioning – “Little Peter’s” Direct Conditioning

RABBIT (CS) Before *direct conditioning*, a RABBIT somehow had become a conditioned stimulus (CS) with the ability to elicit a powerful fear reaction (CR) in Peter, *i.e.*, he had an already established rabbit-provoked conditioned fear response when Mary Cover Jones found him.

FOOD (UCS) Before *direct conditioning*, FOOD, as usual, evoked a nearly opposite emotion, *viz.*, pleasure. FOOD does cause salivation, but it is its ability to evoke higher cognitive states such as enjoyment, relaxation, and pleasing emotional feelings that was to be called into play here.

RABBIT (CS) + FOOD (UCS)  **RELAXATION & PLEASURE (UCR)**
During *direct conditioning*, the RABBIT & FOOD (e.g., candy) are repeatedly paired with each other.

After *direct conditioning*, Peter’s “fear was eliminated in favor of a positive response.”
[MCJ]

RABBIT (CS)  **Non-fearful behavior, relaxation, etc.(CR)**