



Understanding Children's Learning. A Guide to Behavioral Therapy





Alda Elzinga Anne van Wendel de Joode

Personal Introduction



Anne van Wendel de Joode

Health care psychologist

(in training for Clinical psychologist)

Alda Elzinga

Health care psychologist

Supervisor Dutch Organization CBT



Today's goal

 To boost your knowledge on how to approach children with urinary incontience, dysfunctional voiding and recurrent urinary tract infections in a cognitive behavioral way



Steps



1. Developmental psychological perspective



2. Basics of cognitive behavioral therapy (+applied)

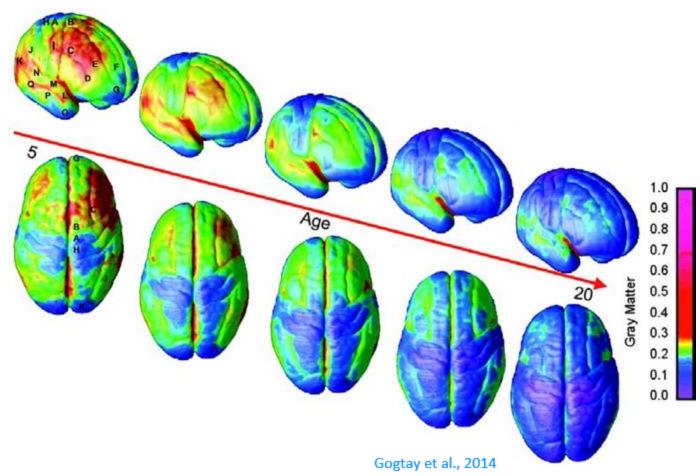


3. Take home message





Neurological perspective







Attachment: basic condition for learning



PIAGET'S 4 STAGES OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT









Sensorimotor stage

0 to 2 Year old

Characteristics: Motor activity without use of symbols **Preoperational stage**

2 to 7 years old

Characteristics: Development of language, More logical and methodical memory, & imagination. manipulation of symbols.

Concrete operational stage

7 to 11 years old

Characteristics:

Formal operational stage

12 Year to Up

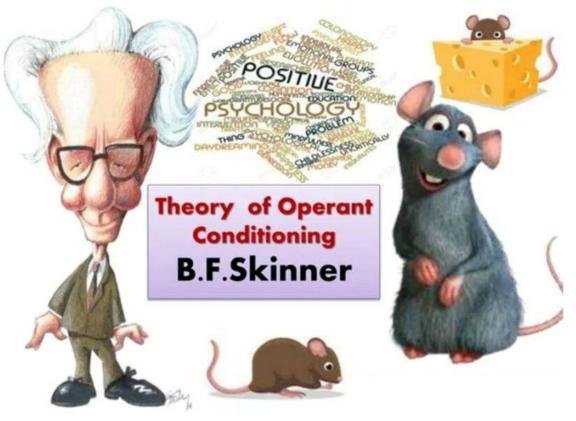
Characteristics: Use of symbols to relate to abstract concepts.





Refreshing memory

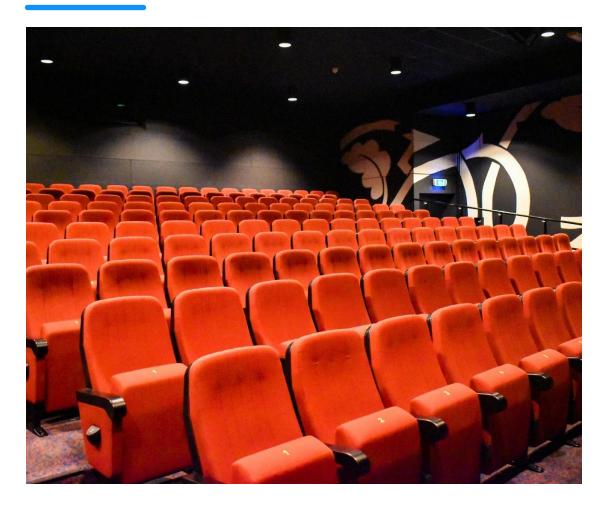


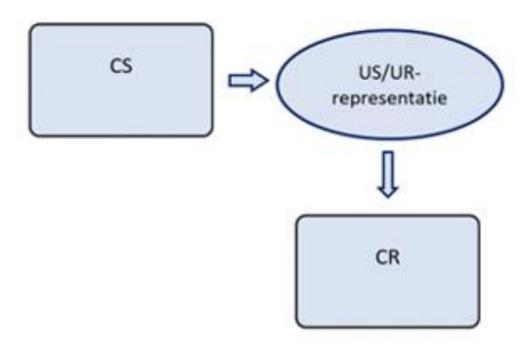






Meaning analysis

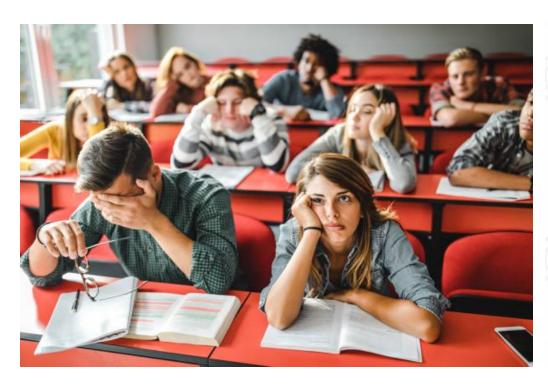








Functional analysis (S+ or S-)

















Case 1: Donald (3 years old)



- Urinary tract infection
- Medical operation
- Temper tantrums
- Separation anxiety
- Nightmares





Case 1: Analysis + treatment

Mediation therapy

Classical conditioning: Parent-Child EMDR Therapy

Operant conditioning:
Stimulating going to the toilet
Reward system







Case 2: Julia (8 years)

- Toilet training problems
- No control over bowel movements

Avoiding bowel irrigation

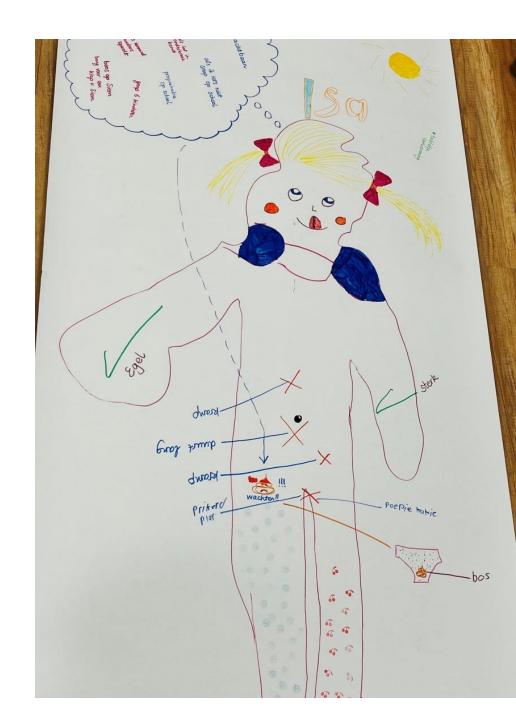






Case 2: Analysis and treatment

- Classical & operant conditioning
- Psycho-education parents
- EMDR mother & child
- Mediation therapy
- Reward system



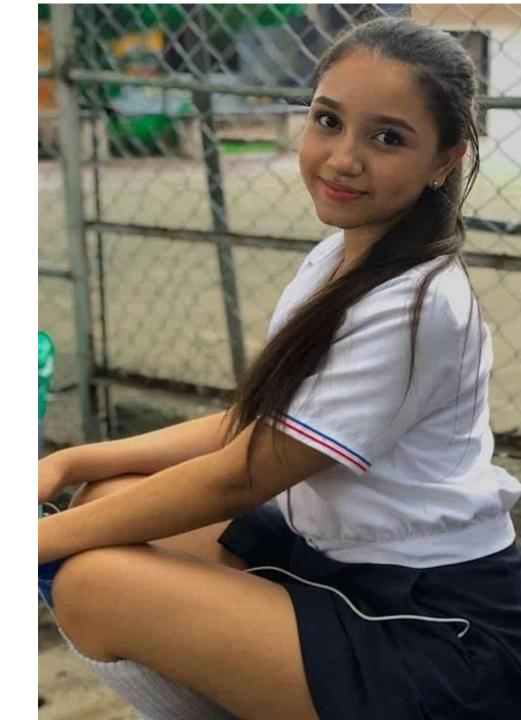




Case 3: Emma (14 years)

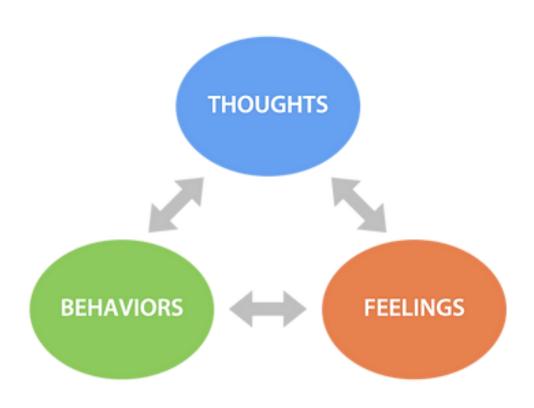
- Incontinence due to bladderinstability
- Strong fear of medical treatment
- Sudden expanding fears and emotional mood swings





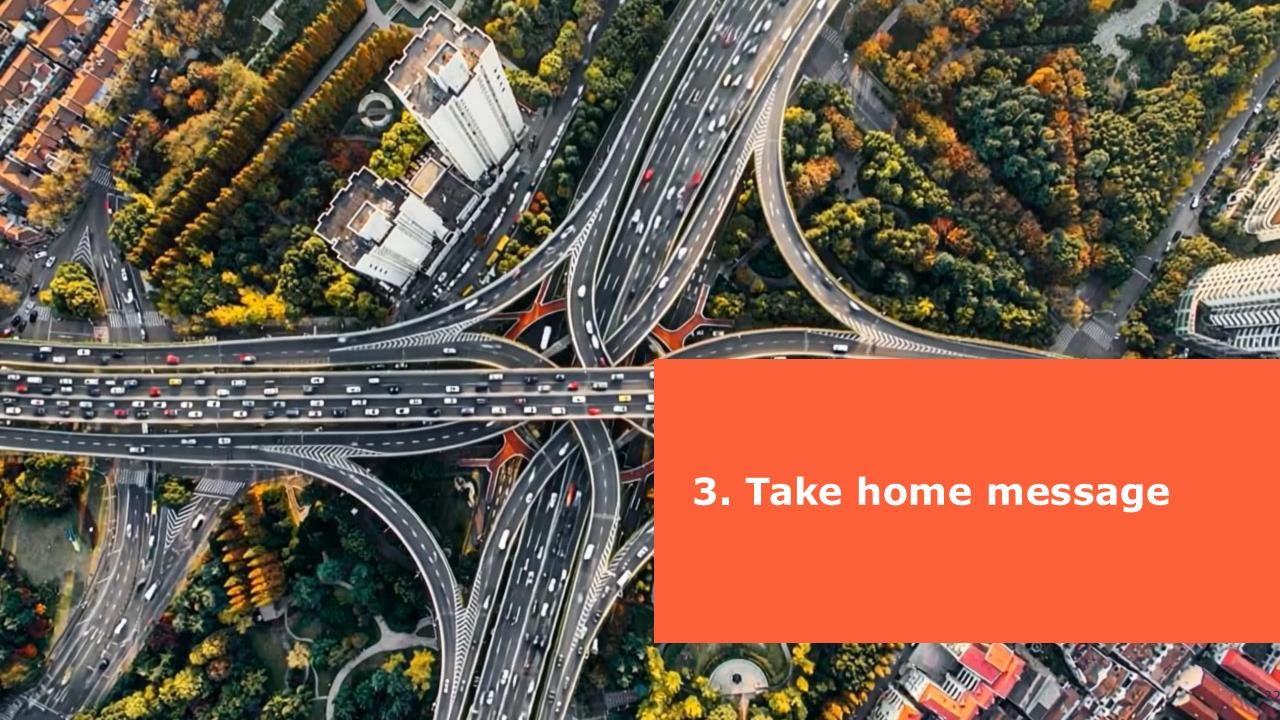


Case 3: Analysis and treatment



- EMDR
- Cognitive restructuring
- Behavior modification (exposure!)
- Self-Monitoring
- Relaxation techniques







Conclusion

- CBT can be helpful in working with children with incontinence and dysfunctional voiding
- Developmental age is important in deciding what techniques to use
- Analyse, understand and adjust







PREOPERATIONAL STAGE (2-7 YEAR)



Task: Exploring the world from a safe base

Fear. Getting separated from safe base, damaging the body and loss of autonomy

Symbolic thinking, language development, imaginative play, egocentrism, and magical thinking, with ongoing brain growth focused on social interaction.





- Communicate and interact through mediation.
- Create a positive learning environment with humor and compliments.
- Assess motivation for change with child and parents; set realistic goals.
- Encourage parents as role models and do things together.
- Maintain clear boundaries.
- Support emotional regulation (anger, fear, sadness).
- Mentalize by verbalizing situations.
- Use concrete materials for visual understanding.
- ... focus on problem behavior, **but** concentrate on behavior you'd like to see.
- ... connect only with parents, **but** make sure you connect with the child and look for positive outcomes.
- ... delay reward for too long, **but** offer immediate reward for small steps.





CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE (7-11 YEAR)



Task: Learning (school), social referencing and competition Fear: Being left out/not being accepted, wanting to be normal

Development of logical thinking tied to concrete situations and gain problemsolving skills as the prefrontal cortex matures. Growth of autonomy, able to see others' perspectives and able to reflect on thoughts and actions. Shifting focus from parents to teachers and peers. A medical condition may feel like a burden.





- Direct interaction with the child; get connected.
- Explore the burden of the medical condition.
- Create a positive learning environment with humor, rewards, and encouragement.
- Assess motivation for change.
- Stimulate autonomy and set clear goals.
- Parents are given a supporting role.
- ... focus on problem behavior, **but** concentrate on behavior you'd like to see.
- ... make use of a protocol, but personalize always.
- ... continue if there is no progress, **but** evaluate what is blocking chance.

CBT-techniques

- Cognitive restructuring
- Behavior modification
- Exposure
- Self-monitoring
- Mindfulness and relaxation technique
- Role play





FORMAL OPERATIONAL STAGE (12 YEARS +)



Task: Exploring identity, sexuality and autonomy.

Fear: Insecurities and moodswings. Fear of not fitting in

Development of abstract and hypothetical thinking, solve complex problems, and consider future scenarios. Brain maturation enhances planning and regulation. Sensitivity to rewards is high. Focus shifts to peers, with increasing independence from parents.



• Build connection and show interest.

- Explore the burden of the medical condition
- Create a **positive learning environment** with humor, rewards, and encouragement.
- Assess motivation for change and set clear goals.
- Stimulate autonomy and personal responsibility.
- Identify the support network.



- ... involve parents without asking, **but** consider separate parent counseling.
- ... set goals yourself, **but** use open communication instead.
- ... continue if there is no progress, **but** evaluate what is blocking chance.

CBT-techniques

- Psycho-education
- Cognitive restructuring
- Behavior modification
- Exposure
- Self-monitoring
- Mindfulness and relaxation techniques
- Dissonance Resolution
- Cognitive Assessment Methods
- Emotion Regulation Skills
- Acceptance and
 Commitment Therapy



Just can't get enough

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lp-LPc3LGI









Thank you for your attention!
Alda Elzinga. A.elzinga@umcutrecht.nl
Anne van Wendel de Joode, MSC. A.a.m.vanwendeldejoode@umcutrecht.nl