



# B.F. Skinner

Ebony Derrick, Bryce Haskins, and Lala Thomas

Child Development

Period 5

Born on March 20, 1904

Died on August 18, 1990



# Background Information

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- Full name: Burrhus Frederick Skinner
- Attended Harvard and Hamilton College
- Best known for developing theory of behaviorism
- Conducted his research on rats and pigeons

# Theory of Child Development

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- Came up with **theory of behaviorism**
- Positive and negative reinforcements
- If a child's actions bring positive effects or are praised, the child will continue the action
- If negative results occur, the child will eventually stop doing the action



# Application of Behaviorism

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- Parents can use behaviorism to influence the child's decisions by giving rewards and punishments
- Beware: If parents/caregivers give praise/bring a positive result for bad actions, the child will think that it's correct and continue to do it
- For example, if a child wants something at the store and makes a scene to get it and the parent gets what the child wants, the child will continue to act up to get what it wants

# Example of Behaviorism

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- Jimmy Jr. wants some water, so he goes to get a cup to fill. He successfully fills up the cup and goes to show his mother, who rewards him with candy. A few days later, he goes to open the door after hearing the doorbell. His dad sees him at the door and punishes him by giving him a time-out. He never opened the door again until he was older.



# References

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- <http://www.biography.com/people/bf-skinner-9485671#awesm=~oD9nkz3ZC53TyJ>
- <http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/skinner.html>
- <http://www.muskingum.edu/~psych/psycweb/history/skinner.htm>