

An Assessment and Treatment of Problem Behavior Maintained by Access to Rituals

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Overview

- Prior Ritualistic Behavior Literature
- Study 1 – Assessment
 - Method
 - Results
- Study 2 – Treatment Evaluation
 - Method
 - Results
- Discussion & Future Research

Ritualistic Behavior

- Impedes learning opportunities
- Response topographies
 - Repetitive body movement
 - Stereotyped object manipulation
 - Compulsive behavior
 - Insistence on “sameness”
 - Circumscribed interests
 - Self-injurious behavior

Related Literature

- Rodriguez et al., 2012
 - Functional analyses of item arranging
 - Competing items + Blocking
- Leon et al., 2013
 - Blocking analyses of aggression
 - Functional Communication Training (FCT) + Extinction (EXT)
- Rispoli et al., 2014
 - Functional analyses of aggression
 - FCT + EXT + Schedule thinning

Study 1 – Assessment

Purpose

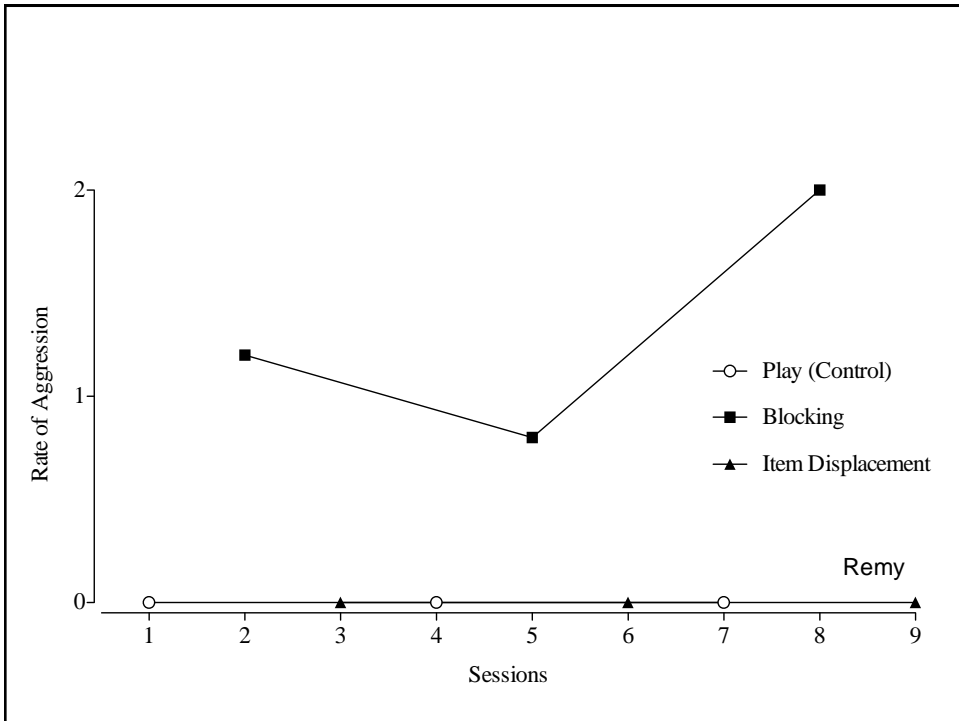
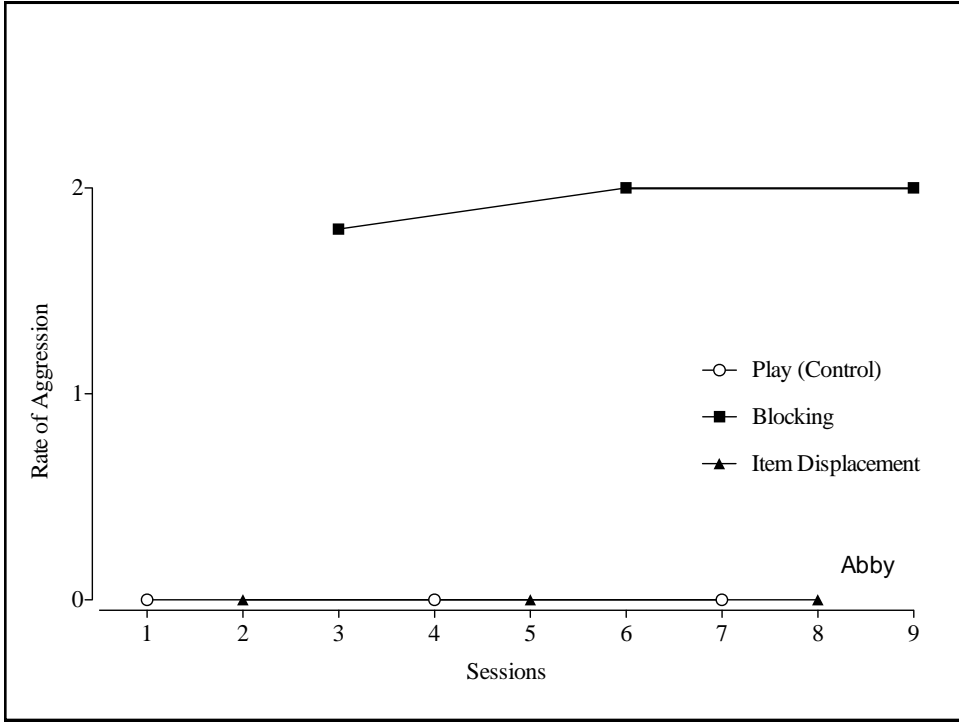
- Replicate prior functional analysis procedures in the assessment of aggression related to item arranging

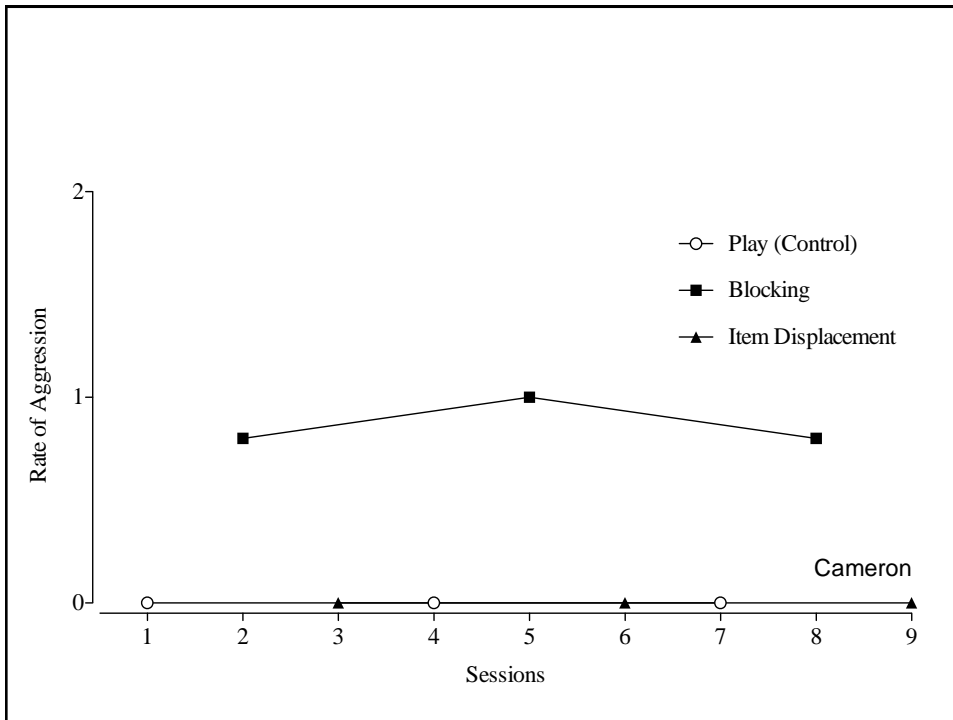
Method

Subject	Age	Item Arranging Response(s)	Aggression
Abby	13	Arranging and straightening objects moved from their original location	Pushing, prying fingers off of held items
Remy	5	Repetitive play with items used to build light posts and telephone poles	Hitting, kicking, throwing items at experimenter
Cameron	3	Repetitive play with block structures, shopping cart with food, and toy cars	Hitting, kicking, throwing items at experimenter

Method

- Initial Functional Analyses
- Conditions:
 - Play (Control)
 - Continuous attention
 - Therapist did not interact with items
 - Blocking
 - Item displacement on an FT 30-s schedule
 - Aggression → access to item arranging
 - Item Displacement





Study 2 – Treatment Evaluation

Purpose

- Evaluate schedule thinning in the treatment of item arranging
- Evaluate continuously versus briefly signaled delays

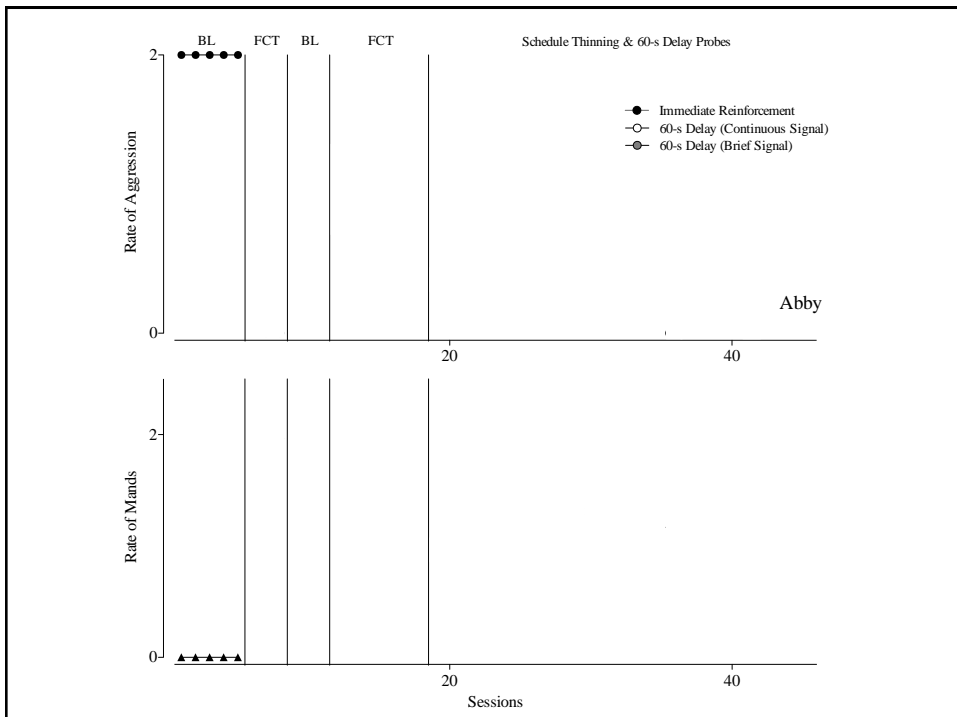
Method

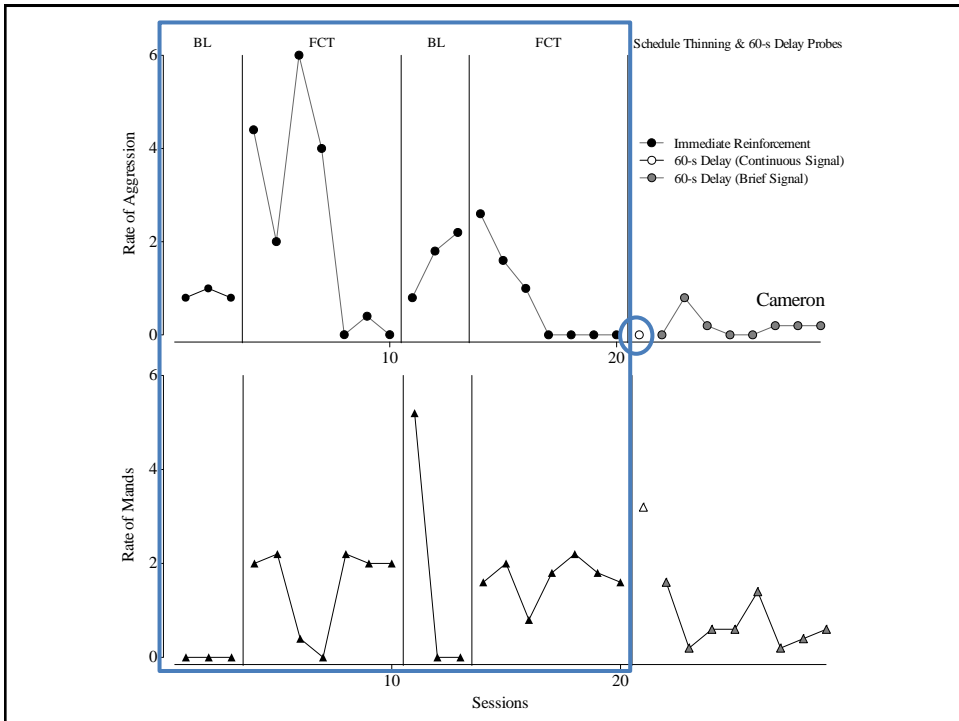
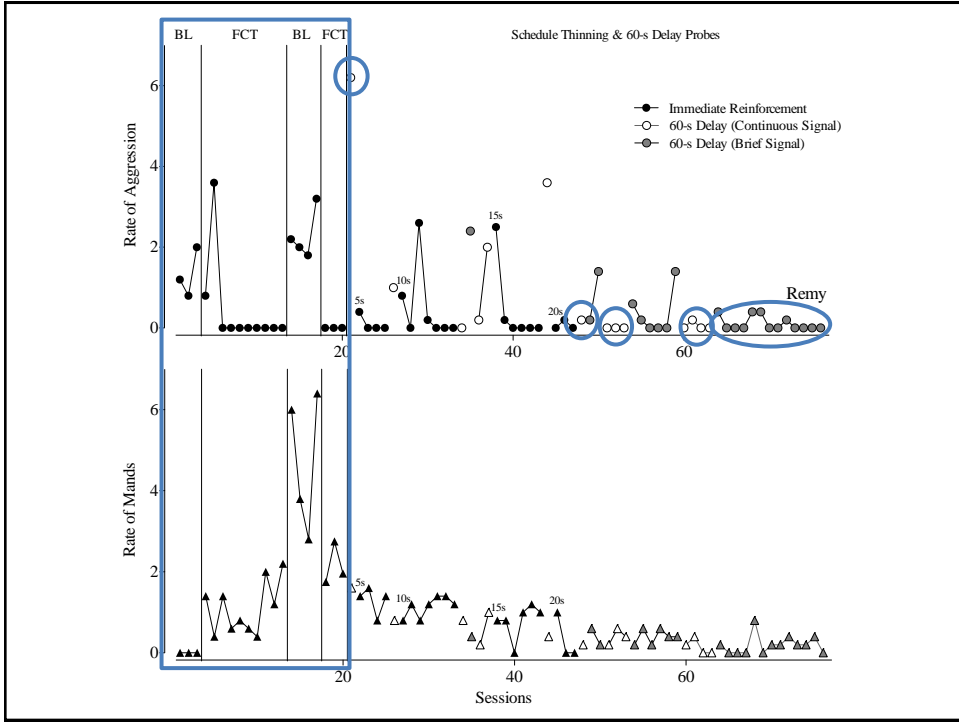
Subject	Age	Item Arranging Response(s)	FC Response
Abby	13	Arranging and straightening objects moved from their original location	"Can I move it?"
Remy	5	Repetitive play with items used to build light posts and telephone poles	"Please don't touch (object)."
Cameron	3	Repetitive play with block structures, shopping cart with food, and toy cars	"Stop, please."

- Design
 - Reversal design with probes of the terminal 60-s continuously and briefly signaled delay

Method

- Baseline
 - Item displacement on an FT 30-s schedule
 - Aggression → access to item arranging
- FCT + EXT
- Delay probes
 - 60-s continuously signaled delay
 - 60-s briefly signaled delay
- Schedule thinning
 - 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 60 s





Discussion & Future Research

- FCT effective means to decrease problem behavior
- Schedule thinning was effective in limiting mands and item arranging
- Utility of terminal probes
 - Increased delays to reinforcement
 - Continuous versus brief delays

Thank you!