

ATTITUDE (Part 4)

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Learning

Besides, socialization and experience, many psychologists also believe that children learn attitudes through different types of learning. They believe that children learn attitudes through three different ways are classical conditioning, instrumental conditioning and modeling.

Classical Conditioning

Classical conditioning is learning through association. This happens when a neural stimulus becomes associated with the response to another stimulus. This normally happens through repeated association. Through repeated association, an emotional response, which was elicited by a stimulus, could be conditioned to neutral stimulus, thus when this neutral stimulus will become conditioned and it will elicit similar emotional response to the first stimulus. In other words, when an object that does not elicit an emotional response is repeatedly associated with another object that elicits an emotional response. The first object may also be conditioned to elicit similar response to the second object. For example, very small children are not afraid of the dark but after the repeated association of darkness with objects that elicit fear, such as ghosts and criminals, the children may then become afraid of the dark.