

Preference Assessments: These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

Sean P. Peterson, Ph.D., BCBA

Clinical Director

The Pier Center for Autism

A Few of My Favorite Things

- Identify 3 commonly used Preference Assessments
- Implement a Multiple-Stimulus without Replacement (MSWO) Preference Assessment
- Identify at least one issue with Overusing a Preferred Item
- Discuss the use of a Preference Assessment in Combination with an Activity Schedule

Today's Goals

- Characteristics:
 - 1) Likes M&Ms or Skittles
 - 2) Can Follow Simple Instructions
 - 3) Not Afraid to be Embarrassed

Volunteer

Free-Operant

- Instruction – sometimes present, others not
- Response – free to vary
- Outcome – reinforcer
- Intertrial Interval – absent

Discrete-Trial

- Instruction – always presented
- Response – restricted
- Outcome – reinforcer
- Intertrial Interval – present

Free-Operant vs. Discrete-Trial

Pros

- Items are freely available
- Duration based
- Identify high-preferred items

Cons

- Managing multiple items
- Efficient is not Effective
- Snapshot

Free-Operant Preference Assessment

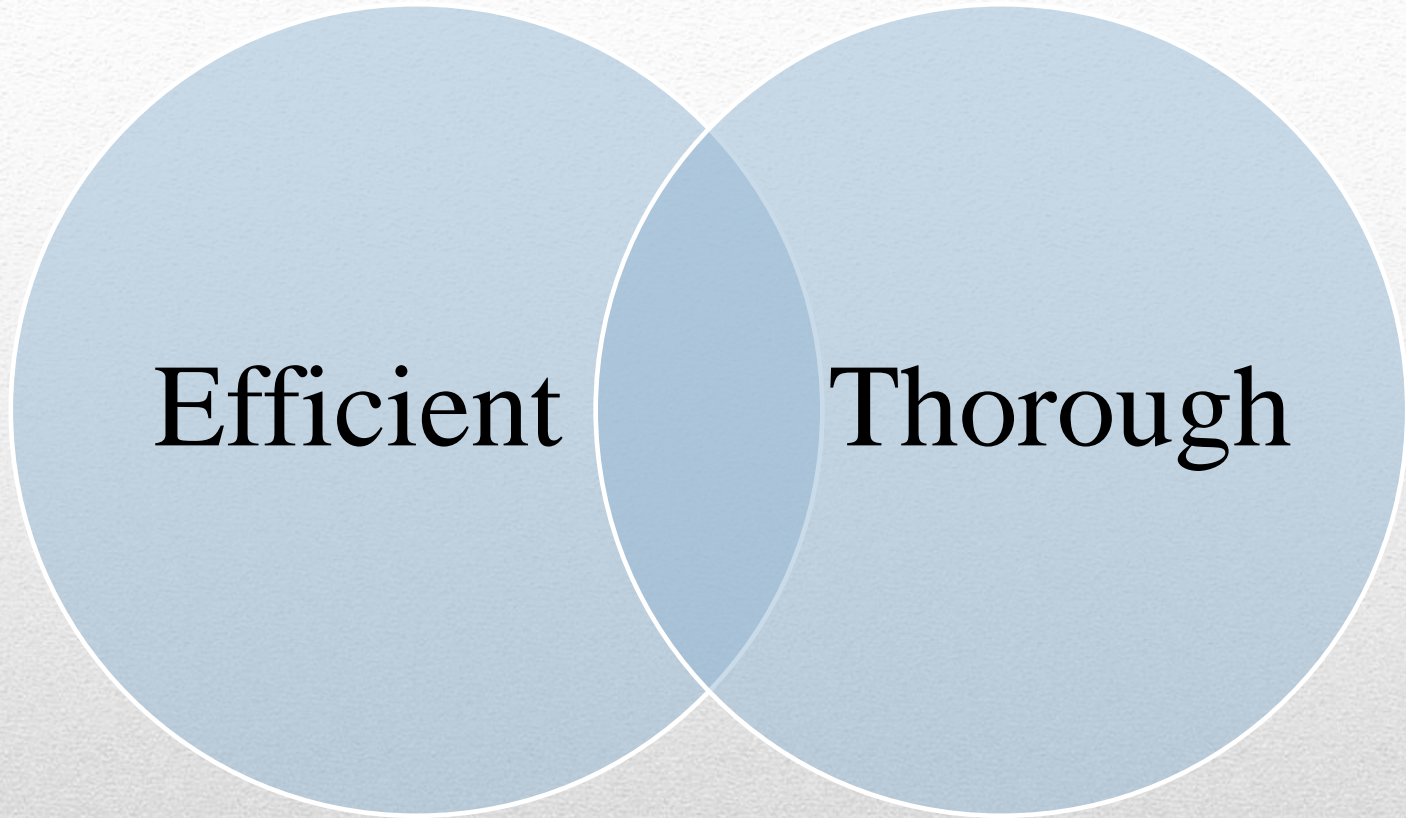
Pros

- Thorough
- Hierarchy of preference
- Multiple items

Cons

- Time-consuming
- Set-up

Paired-Stimulus Preference Assessment



The Sweet Spot

- Multiple-Stimulus without Replacement (MSWO)

The Sweet Spot

Pros

- Thorough
- Hierarchy of preference
- Multiple items

Cons

- Repetition is recommended

MSWO Preference Assessment

- Groups of 3-4
- Get your bag of goodies

MSWO Practice

1. Let your “consumer” try each item
2. Lay the items out in front of your consumer (Array)
3. Give the instruction “pick-one”
4. Allow them to consume the item
5. Remove the remaining items
6. Repeat steps 2-5 for the remaining items

MSWO Steps

Overuse

- Use high preferred items to reinforce difficult tasks
- Include if, then statements or schedules

Preference Assessments and Activity Schedules

If



, Then



Questions
