Unreinforced conditional selection within three-choice conditional discriminations.
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AB Five normal 7-12-yr-old Ss were taught 2, 3-choice conditional discriminations and given tests for equivalence (A-B and B-A). This was repeated with 2 new conditional discriminations (D-F and E-F). Tests showed the development of 6, 3-member equivalence classes. Ss were then presented a new conditional discrimination with the D stimuli as samples and the C stimuli as comparisons without differential consequences. Three Ss responded conditionally by selecting a different comparison stimulus in the presence of each sample stimulus. Subsequent tests showed that the 6 stimulus classes merged into 3 classes. The 4th S responded inconsistently on the unreinforced D-C trials, but after additional training and subsequent testing under a partial reinforcement baseline, responded conditionally to 2 of the 3 sample stimuli. The 5th S selected the same C stimulus in the presence of all D stimuli.