Operation conditioning

Operant conditioning is a method of learning where behavior is shaped by the outcomes it produces. When a behavior is followed by a positive result, known as reinforcement, it becomes more likely to happen again. Conversely, behaviors followed by negative outcomes, called punishment, tend to decrease. Reinforcement can involve adding something pleasant or removing something unpleasant, while punishment might mean adding an unpleasant element or taking away something desirable. For example, a teacher praising a student for timely homework (positive reinforcement) encourages the student to keep this habit. On the other hand, if a parent removes a child’s video game privileges for not doing chores (negative punishment), it may reduce the likelihood of chores being neglected. This concept highlights how learning is affected by consequences that influence observable actions, focusing on external responses rather than internal thoughts or emotions.