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Learning in a new way in Dingle

Positive reinforcement increases the ability

Dingle: Learning to hold a pencil or a golf club, or to learn language. It is called "TAGteach".

-This is a learning technique that can be applied to almost everything, says Eva Bertilsson, one of the hosts of a two day seminar in Dingle.

"TAG" stands for Teaching with Acoustical Guidance and is an American learning method. Theresa McKeon and Beth Wheeler, two of the pioneers, have been teaching the technique for two days to 27 participants from Norway and Sweden. Teachers, psychologists, organization consultants and animal training instructors were at the site to learn.

-Using the method to learn a golf swing, choose a small motion or position that is part of the swing; that will be the so called TAG Point. For example, how you hold your thumb against the shaft. Every time you manage this position correctly, your instructor will click with a sound that confirms that you have done it right. After a while that motion will be on your spine (automatic). Then you move on to the next small motion or position.

Positive reinforcement

Eva Bertilsson enthusiastically tells about this new way of learning where you concentrate on what is right, a kind of positive reinforcement.

The technique is mostly applied to different kinds of physical activities, such as gymnastics, riding, dance, rehabilitation and training the trainers in animal sports.

-But it can also be about teaching children to behave well in a school environment, for example to dare to talk in a group. Autistic children can make great use of the technique, says Eva Bertilsson.

40 years of age

The TAG technique may be new, but the science behind it is over 40 years of age explains Beth Wheeler, one of the pioneers. She and Theresa McKeon have been practicing the method for about three years in the US.

Applications in schools

Eva Bertilsson is herself working as a teacher in, among other things, English and Swedish at the Agricultural High School in Dingle. She hopes to be able to apply the method to the learning of language.

-You get immediate feedback to what you have done and especially to what you have done right, which increases the learning ability.

One of the 27 participants is Annica Johansson. She works as a teacher at Backa School and has for some time been using parts of the technique with her students, by praising them when they do something good. She now hopes that these two days will give her more ideas, especially about how to work during the actual knowledge acquisition.

Facts – TAG Teach

A learning method that is used in the US by for example teachers and instructors. The teacher uses so called TAG points, single parts of a motion, position or action and marks with a click sound when the TAG point is done correctly. By setting reasonable goals in small step the student experiences many "successes" which increases the self esteem and the learning.

Photos (Robert Svensson):

#1 = There were many practical sessions during the seminar. Here one of the groups is presenting their suggestion for how to teach a child to brush its teeth with the TAG technique.

#2 - The click is the receipt (confirmation) that you have executed a motion or position correctly according to the new learning technique.

#3 – Enthusiasts (pictured l to r): Beth Wheeler, Eva Bertilsson, Theresa McKeon and Emelie Johnson Vegh were holding onto the strings at (the organizers of) the seminar days in Dingle.