Taken from lecture 1.

• Until 1960’s behaviourism, a teacher centred theory, was the dominant

view of learning;

since then, student centred theories have become more influential and

literacy instruction has changed to reflect these theories.

**Behaviourism**

Behaviourists focus on the observable and measureable aspects of

students’ behaviour.

• behaviour can be learned or unlearned.

• learning is the result of stimulus-and-response behaviour.

• learn by using a series of discrete skills and sub-skills.

• teacher’s active role is that of the dispenser of knowledge.

• teachers use explicit instruction to teach skills in a planned, sequential

structure.

• information is presented in small steps.

• reinforced through practice.

More info can be found concerning Ivan Pavlov ‘s experiments with dog’s which influenced the behavioural psychology In reading 2 (pp. 164 - 166)

“Learning to read was thought of as matching the correct verbal response to the appropriate visual stimulus - that is, saying the right word when the word was shown” flashcards used with words and single alphabetic letters used.

correct responses praised errors ignored.

these methods worked effectively for some students yet failed others. (pp. 164 - 166 reading 2 - Emmit et al (2007)