

Risk-Need-Responsivity

Criminal Justice

The three principles with the strongest evidence in rehabilitation research.

Rehabilitation works best when intensity matches risk, work targets criminogenic need, and delivery fits how the person learns.

Risk + Need + Responsivity

Low-risk person

Intensity can harm

Light or no programme

Antisocial attitudes

Target it directly

A criminogenic need

Low literacy

A responsivity issue

Adapt the delivery

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× **Give everyone the intensive programme**

✓ **Match intensity to assessed risk**

Intensive programmes given to low-risk people have been found to increase reoffending, partly through exposure to higher-risk peers.

Educational reference. Andrews and Bonta's model has the strongest evidence base in correctional rehabilitation research.