Knoch_Supplementary Figure 1

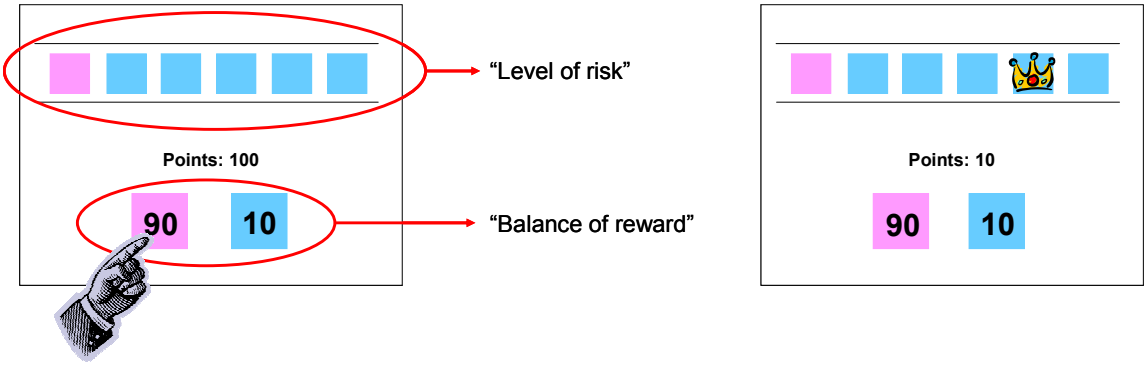

Figure 1 shows exemplary trials as displayed on the computer screen. Subjects were presented with six boxes colored in pink or blue. The number of pink and blue boxes varied from trial to trial according to a fixed pseudo-random sequence (sample shows 5:1). The ratio of blue to pink boxes (5:1, 4:2, 3:3, 2:4 or 1:5) was referred to as "level of risk". Subjects were asked to find the winning token. They did not have to pick the individual box hiding the winning token, but simply had to select the color of the box hiding the "winning token" (in this sample illustrated by a schematic hand pointing to the pink box). Subjects were told that each box, regardless of color, was equally likely to hide the winning token. Thus, the likelihood of finding the winning token was directly related to the ratio of blue to pink boxes. For a trial showing 5 blue boxes and 1 pink box there would be a probability of 5:6 that the winning token is hidden in a blue box, but only a 1:6 chance that it is hidden in the single pink box.
Importantly, subjects are rewarded or penalized depending on whether they pick the correct color box or not. There is a fixed reward associated with either choice of boxes' color (10 versus 90, 20 versus 80, 30 versus 70 and 40 versus 60; referred to as "balance of reward"). The larger reward (and penalty) is always associated with choice of the high risk prospect (i.e. the color with the fewest number of boxes), whereas the smallest reward (and penalty) is associated with choice of the low risk prospect. A correct choice results in the addition of the number of points associated with that particular scenario while an incorrect choice results in the subtraction of the same amount (sample shows an incorrect choice which results in a subtraction of 90 points).