

Original article

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Systematic Review of Didactic Strategies in Physical Education to Develop Motor Skills

[Revisión sistemática de las estrategias didácticas en la Educación Física para el desarrollo de habilidades motrices]

[Revisão sistemática das estratégias de ensino em Educação Física para o desenvolvimento das habilidades motoras]



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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The practice of basic motor skills during infant learning helps articulate and enhance the basic motion abilities through Physical Education. These actions are then conceptualized and strengthened into more complex motor skills, such as movements, jumps, balances, throwing, and catching. **Aim**: to conduct an analysis of didactic strategies used in Physical Education to tackle basic motor skills.

Materials and methods: the main method used was systematic review, under the PRISM method design, and the practical guide for systematic reviews regardless of meta-analysis.

Results: The most outstanding results were observed in 4 studies, using a version of theoretical and empirical methods suggested by other authors. **Conclusions**: Physical Education is the main axis to build infant motor skills, used as the denominator of motor and cognitive development. It lies within the body concepts in favor of anatomical gesture movement during their life cycle.



Keywords: Motor skills, physical education, didactic strategies.

RESUMEN

Introducción: la práctica de las habilidades motrices de base en el desarrollo del aprendizaje infantil articula y emancipa las destrezas básicas de movimiento, desde la Educación Física formativa se conceptualizan y fortalecen dichas acciones motrices más complejas, como es el caso de los desplazamientos, saltos, equilibrios, lanzamientos y recepciones entre otros.

Objetivo: realizar un análisis de las estrategias didácticas que se utilizan en la educación física para trabajar las habilidades motrices de base. **Materiales y métodos**: la metodología desarrollada es la revisión sistemática, bajo el diseño método PRISMA y la guía práctica referida a las revisiones sistemáticas con o sin meta

Resultados: Los resultados más destacados se obtuvieron en 4 estudios empleando una versión de métodos nivel teórico y empírico propuesto por otros autores. **Conclusiones**: se puede concluir que la Educación Física es el eje central como denominador del desarrollo motriz y cognitivo en la construcción de las etapas del desarrollo motriz en el estadio infantil de los seres humanos, enmarcando las conceptualizaciones corporales en pro del movimiento anatómico y gestual para su ciclo de vida.

Palabras clave: Habilidades motrices, educación física, estrategias didácticas.

RESUMO

Introdução: a prática das habilidades motoras básicas no desenvolvimento da aprendizagem das crianças articula e emancipa as habilidades básicas do movimento, da Educação Física formativa essas ações motoras mais complexas são conceitualizadas e fortalecidas, como é o caso do movimento, pular, equilibrar, arremessar e pegar, entre outros.

Objetivo: realizar uma análise das estratégias didáticas utilizadas na educação física para trabalhar as habilidades motoras básicas. **Materiais e métodos:** a metodologia desenvolvida é a revisão sistemática, sob o método de projeto PRISMA e o guia prático referente às revisões sistemáticas com ou sem metanaálise.

Resultados: Os resultados mais notáveis foram obtidos em 4 estudos utilizando uma versão de métodos de nível teórico e empírico propostos por outros autores. **Conclusões:** Pode-se concluir que a Educação Física é o eixo central como denominador do desenvolvimento motor e cognitivo na construção das etapas de desenvolvimento motor na fase infantil do ser humano, enquadrando as conceitualizações corporais em favor do movimento anatômico e gestual para seu ciclo de vida.

Palavras-chave: Habilidades motoras, educação física, estratégias didáticas.



INTRODUCTION

The practice of basic motor skills during early infant learning, lead to the formation of further more complex motor skills, such as movements, jumps, balances, throwing, and catching. According to Guthrie (2019, p. 3), it is the capacity of achieving the expected results accurately, through learning, usually, in the shortest possible time, with the least energy consumption. It permits children to adapt to neurophysiological processes by means of stimuli, thus providing a positive result. Through different types of ludic activities, children can experience new moments in their lives.

Thanks to the analysis of theoretical and empirical studies, motor development in children is understood as the motor aptitudes experienced by the children. Hence, motor movements are increasingly special gestures that can be performed with their bodies, which is known as thin and thick motricity. (Bernate, 2021). To Piaget, "Intelligence is built through motor activity in the early ages, and until age seven, approximately, when child education is psychomotor." (n/a) It shows that child evolution relies on the dexterities acquired every year.

(Bernate *et al.*, 2019 p. 34) "referred to thin motricity, which is developed through the logical and systematic method as the capacities to perform all the tasks needed throughout their school life, which help meet their goals as a component of comprehensive education", besides representing a success on the intellectual, social, and sentimental circles. In turn, Vivas, (2015) noted that it requires education that forms and develops, consolidating the utilization of small and precise handling movements through the sports games, thus familiarizing the children with the sports skills. Thin motricity is a set of abilities that the children acquire mainly by using their hands, which require hand-eye coordination, such as "painting, amassing, grabbing, and using tools, between 1 and 3 years of age" (Vivas, 2015 p. 12)

Thick motricity can be materialized through actions performed with the whole body, coordination movements, such the limbs, balance, and the senses, such as walking, running, turning, and jumping, between 2 and 5 years of age, when the children make the most progress, and with the help of science, they must have been well adapted to these activities.

Renzi (2013, p.3) noted that in early infancy, children learn to be motor competent when they are capable of understanding better all the situations demanding effective motor performance, and when they develop resources needed to respond to the challenges of a particular situation. It entails the development of a feeling of competence to act, like "I can", along with the confidence to overcome difficult-problematic situations. It also is reflected in the satisfaction of transforming the settings.

Several loco-motor and handling skills can be identified, considering that motor skills are the dexterities developed by infants for complex activities necessary for a wide variety of challenges throughout their lives, such as games and sports.



First, the relevance of games in the development of motor skills is very important; Monzón (2010) claims that, "Games meet certain psychological, social, and pedagogical needs, and permit the development of a broad variety of dexterities, skills, and knowledge."

Cabrera & Dupeyrón (2019) define emotion as the reaction of the body to the mind. Motricity becomes a principal plane for cognitive, emotional, social, and affective development in children, in school, public places, and their homes. Therefore, its factors have been demonstrated when exploring things, whose motricity can be developed through games. Besides, it can be implemented through pedagogical proposals inside and outside schools during the early stages, with the ultimate objectives of motor and cognitive skills, thus improving school achievements. Physical interaction will help the children recognize themselves and develop cognitive and motor skills that can provide better ways to solve everyday problems.

Meanwhile, Rojas *et al.* (2019) corroborated the importance of the child's integrated development in pre-school education; they are a reflection of how parents and educators do not pay due attention to activity, and on many occasions ignore the biological, morphological, and social landmarks of motricity through Physical Education. Although there are quite a few scholars conducting studies related to the significance of motor education, the educational and curricular processes fail to overlap and articulate. Often, school development is hindered by means of body development, motor expressions, and the awareness of the body and development of motor and coordinating capacities.

"When children are capable of using symbols, words, or objects to replace what is absent (during their second year of age), they are proving that they can act differently, not only physically, on the things that surround them" (Mármol *et al.*, 2015 p. 3).

Consequently, Delgado & Montes (2017) described the way in which some educators disregard motor education in early ages, perhaps because they do not have enough expertise and specialized training, which may also be caused by the fact that to most, body and motor education is not as relevant as other educational areas. Besides, when motricity lacks efficiency and purpose, it creates conceptual gaps in learning. "The locomotor skills help move the body from one place to the other, as in walking, running, jumping, leaping, and galloping. The non-motor skills do not require movement, but body domain, such as jumping, spinning, and static balancing. The handling skills are used to project or receive objects, such as throwing, wiping, kicking, rebounding" (Andrade. 2016, p. 2).

It is known that the basic movement patterns are a fundamental factor in the early childhood, when the children's motor skills can be identified through documentary intervention. Observation can be used to specify properties, characteristics, and the profiles of children and objects. In other words, the idea is to gather information independently or collectively, on the concepts or variables referred to. Some activities related to the items conducted, which will help know the basic patterns of movements, are facilitated. Also, the children will become familiar with crawling, dragging, marching, gamboling, running, muscle definition, and posture control, to conduct systematic reviews associated with motor skills in the early ages. Then it describes and



identifies children's defects and complications at every stage of development, which according to previous reviews, must be incorporated to the toddlers' motor skills, as the basis in their relation to their physical activity, considering how good or bad skills may influence their growth.

Overall, there is an absence of practical actions to develop motor skills in children; for instance, "The human needs after birth include going from one place to another; humans are born with a need to move, change position, travelling, as it also contributes to greater survival possibilities" Garcés (2016, p.3).

According to Renzi (2009, p. 3) "It comprises decisions taken by the children in terms of the intentionality of motor actions that will be used to respond to a situation or problem, or an objective, which are closely related to the type of motor interaction established among them". Through imitation, children can get a better perception of the movements required to perform a particular activity.

Moreover, Garófano & Guirado (2017) said that,

Motricity is not only important as it permits students' motor development, but also because through it, infants can express and communicate their emotions, and acquire the corresponding knowledge, being movement one of the determining factors of learning as a motivating agent that can stimulate children to action, which takes a relevant place in their everyday life. (p. 101)

Finally, Bernate, *et al.* (2019) mentioned the importance of providing integrated education to children since their early stages, strengthening social skills through exercise and collaborative games to enhance physical education in values. Hence, this paper aims to conduct a systemic bibliographic review consisting of analyzing and systematizing the standpoints of different academic referents in the area of Physical Education in motor development processes in early stages, and how they contribute to integrated learning areas transversally. Likewise, this study looks to create a study referent for Physical Education students and teachers in the higher and general education to provide a theoretical referenced overview in terms of pedagogic strategies in this specific area of education and motor education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study consists of a systematic review that studies and evaluates research on didactic strategies used in Physical Education to teach motor skills to infants. The PRISM method and the practical guide of systematic reviews with or without meta-analysis were used in this study.

Eligibility criteria

The criteria for selection in this review were, a) whole papers; b) published between 2007 and 2020; c) in English and Spanish; d) including control and experimental groups; e) with pre-test and post-test actions. The papers were included upon checking their



compliance with the different eligibility criteria shown. Other sources were included as well (analysis of paper references).

Information sources

The search for articles was conducted in different databases (Google Scholar) between 2012 and February 2020. Several search groups were established in referenced journals and theses. 1) Journal Ciencias de la Actividad Física UCM. N° 17(2), 19-28, 2016., 2) Revista Electronica de Educación Física, 3) The Jaén University, Facultad de Humanities and Education Sciences, 4) national and foreign universities in the first term of 2014, 5) Universitat de Vic- Central de Catalunya.

Selection of studies and data mining

Upon the search, the title and abstract of each paper was analyzed to find more relevant data, and discard the studies that failed to meet the inclusion criteria. Then, six articles were selected, which provided information related to the didactic strategies for motor skills, particularly motor skills, didactic strategies, and motor development.

Evaluation

Standard Qualsys evaluation was used in the case of quantitative analysis (Kmet $\it et al., 2021$). The search comprised 14 criteria that were associated with research facts, the methodology, data analysis, the results, and the conclusions. Each analysis scored 2 (acceptable), 1 (acceptable skills), 0 (not accepted), and NA (not acceptable). The results were achieved according to the formula [(satisfactory number x 2) + (partially satisfactory x 1)/28 (not applicable x 2)]. The results were displayed in percentages, between 0 and 100%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the initial search, a total of 40 papers were collected and analyzed, four of them were written in English, 18 international studies, 14 from Latin America, and 4 national research papers, compiling 40 scientific papers referring to the motor skills in infants. Then the papers written in English were discarded. A number of 14 papers were excluded, 16 were not accepted because they were systematic reviews or bibliographic reviews. Upon the analysis, six papers were included in the systematic review.

Quality of the research

The analysis made by the specialists concluded with a conservative cut off (> 0.75). The overall results were assigned by the first observer, and varied between 0.75 and 0.89; the Qualisys results from the second observer were 0.78-0.89 (Table 1).



 Table 1. - Quality of the research

Studies	Observer No. 1	Observer No. 2
Rondón et al. (2018)	0.78	0.78
Peña (2015)	0.78	0.78
Jiménez et al. (2013)	0.75	0.78
Madrona et al. (2008)	0.75	0.78
Rodríguez (2020)	0.75	0.78
Cantor (2015)	0.86	0.89

Research description

The main analyses and results are shown in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Table 2. - Main research analyses and results

Studies	Country	N (gender)	Age and educational	Methodology
		N (control group and	level/context	
		experimental group)		
Rondón et al.	Cuba	Children	2-6 Preschool education	Systematic review
(2015)		Not specified		
Peña (2015)	Colombia	Children	4-8 Elementary education	Qualitative
		Not specified		intervention
Jiménez et al.	Costa	Youngsters	10-12 Elementary	Quantitative
(2013)	Rica	Not specified	education	intervention
Madrona et al.	Spain	Pre-adolescents	12-14 Cadette education	Qualitative
(2008)				intervention
Rodríguez	Spain	Children	2-6 Benjamin education	Systematic review
(2020)		Not specified		
Cantor (2015)	Colombia	Children	6-7 Elementary education	Quantitative
		Not specified		intervention

Table 3. - Main research analyses and results

Studies	Instruments	Analysis
Rondón et	Theoretical and empirical methods were used.	A novel proposal was made; it can be
al. (2015)		used in other contexts as well, including
		other organizational forms at this
		educational level. It includes teaching
		aids available to all the agents and
		agencies in charge of integrated
		education in the early infancy.
Peña (2015)	The macro curriculum, meso curriculum, and	The theoretical rational validates quite a



	micro curriculum were presented, in keeping	few aspects of the project, and is
	with the theoretical statements of Chapter 2,	elucidates several concepts of the
	which will help articulate theory and practice,	project, such as basic patterns
	and to emphasize on their reconstruction, based	movement, early infancy
	on the context needs. It permits to generating	multidimensionality, and physica
	accurate and applied formats during the	education, which confer sense to the
	implementation, which is necessary for the	project.
	evaluation of coherent processes to determine	
	the results of this research.	
Jiménez et	The validity of a content is accomplished by	Reliability was estimated through the
al. (2013)	means of validity logics. It is based on expert	intra-class reliability coefficient to
	opinion (n = 11). This process is complemented	evaluate consistency of trials ($R = .918$)
	with the calculation of a content index that	and between observers (R = .861), being
	provides validity. It is equal to 0.99.	the test applied to 162 people aged 7-27
		(M=14.16±5.28).
Madrona	This research will focus on explaining the	Therefore, this paper compiles concepts
et al. (2008)	necessary presence of physical education, and	and assumptions in terms of motor
	will provide an intervention design in practice,	development, motor contents, body
	during this educational stage.	expression, methodological standpoint
		and motor games and motricity
		program in infant education.
Rodríguez	The case study tends to a joint use of different	The environment-based experience was
(2020)	methodologies. The diary and interview,	assessed through parameters using ar
	observation, and document analysis are the	analytical-descriptive perspective
	most commonly used methods to facilitate	using the case study methodology and
	most commonly used methods to facilitate comprehensive analysis.	using the case study methodology and other gathering techniques and tools
	·	, ,
Cantor	·	other gathering techniques and tools
Cantor (2015)	comprehensive analysis.	other gathering techniques and tools and information analysis. The main goal is to determine the
	comprehensive analysis.	other gathering techniques and tools and information analysis.

As shown in Tables 2 and 3, six studies tackled the didactic strategies for motor skill development in education. The countries with the most studies are Spain Madrona *et al.* (2008) and Rodríguez *et al.* (2020), who conducted a similar study in Costa Rica, another in Cuba, and the other two in Colombia (Peña, 2015 and Cantor, 2015). Most studies included an experimental group, and focused on the didactic strategies for the development of motor skills. The interventions lasted between 1.7 and 32 hours.



The instruments used were four studies that articulated the theoretical and empirical methods (Peña, 2015), whereas Madrona (2020) used the diagnostic test for data collection. Moreover, a protocol was set up for the different experimental groups, which used a proposal that validates projects for elucidating theoretical concepts, such as early infancy, basic movement patterns, and physical education. It includes more concepts Cantor (2015).

 Table 4. - Main research analyses and results

Studies	Research aim	Control group
Rondón et	The movement game proposal focuses on children	The children will be scattered,
al. (2015)	as the center of the educational process. It aims to	wearing bracelets in different
	contribute to the development of skills jumping	colors.
	and climbing.	The little frogs are strolling. In this
		exercise, the children will move
		like frogs, jumping to the hoop.
Peña (2015)	To stimulate the body dimension of children,	No educational influence was used
	considering the different movement possibilities	in the control group.
	through the basic movement patterns.	
Jiménez et	To describe the process of building an instrument,	The participants (all underage)
al. (2013)	to get its validity and reliability to assess the	were asked to sign a written
	performance of ten basic movement patterns.	consent statement, represented by
		their parents.
Madrona et	To justify why physical education is fundamental	No educational influence was used
al. (2008)	to develop the motor skills in children.	in the control group.
Rodríguez	The goal is to implement and broaden the	No educational influence was used
(2020)	knowledge gathered through the active	in the control group.
	methodologies of infant education. It also focuses	
	on how they favor physical education practice.	
Cantor	To emphasize on the effects of the didactic proposal	Traditional methodology
(2015)	based on the pedagogical games and the	
	development of motor skills in children.	

Table 5. - Main research analyses and results

Studies	Experimental group	Main results	
Rondón et	In the original games, the teacher may	A novel proposal was made; it can be used in	
al. (2015)	design alternatives with the objective	other contexts as well, including other	
	of the game (main action), or create	organizational forms at this educational level. It	
	some new, considering the	includes teaching aids available to all the agents	
	characteristics of the children. They		



	can be made by changing the original	and agencies in charge of integrated education in
	positions.	the early infancy.
Peña (2015)	The teacher in charge will conduct	Early infancy is a critical life cycle. Hence, this
	self-assessment of the process,	labor must provide the greatest number of
	particularly of the project associated	experiences gradually.
	with the pedagogic and didactic	experiences gradually.
	- 00	
	planning.	
Jiménez et	In this study, 11 experts collaborated,	The results consisted in a valid and reliable
al. (2013)	all of them university teachers	instrument for performance assessment of ten
	(national and foreign), all experts in	basic patterns of movements during a more
	human movements. Each participated	advanced stage.
	in more than a phase of the validation	
	process.	
Madrona	In this subject and stage, the issues	The largest commitment of infant education is
et al. (2008)	must be addressed, such as excessive	making possible that children start their critical
, ,	sedentary practices or child obesity.	path with better conditions, having better basic
	Therefore, teachers should be	capacities and a broad reservoir of motor
	constantly gathering information.	experiences that help them learn more under
	Constantly gathering information.	
		satisfactory conditions.
Rodríguez	The case study tends to a joint use of	The results show that this methodology requires
(2020)	different methodologies. The diary	a set of continuous movement by students, to
	and interview, observation, and	access to several proposals and conduct them.
	document analysis are the most	Hence, they can be considered as favoring
	commonly used methods to facilitate	physical activity.
	comprehensive analysis, and	
	understanding of the experimental	
	techniques in the experimental	
	population.	
Cantor	The Diagnostic test protocol includes	Positive changes were observed in terms of
(2015)	a table for each skill that explains	practical settings in the children's lives, such as
(====)	every item to be considered to assess	the social setting (communication, family
	the children.	environment, social-affective environment, self-
	the Children.	
		integration, and integration to others); the
		psychological setting (self-esteem, confidence,
		knowledge of themselves, and the construction of
		personality); and the academic setting (greater
		cognitive development, as to reading, writing,



The search conducted on the relevance of child motor development revealed the main factors of motor development. Accordingly, motricity is a critical aspect in the school curriculum and in extracurricular activities. Moreover, parents and teachers assure that the Physical Education class is fundamental and ideal for motor and psychological development, including a high level of enhanced determining factors in favor of child education. Therefore, Cenizo *et al.* (2016) recommended that Physical Education is understood as the engine of human integrated development, in which children may experience body recognition, the scenario, and the manner in which they act with social peers. It can also strengthen memory, social relations, attitudes, and emotions. Furthermore, its role in writing and reading is essential, including the mood (Bernate *et al.*, 2020).

Obviously, most studies are done in the initial stages of education, in which motor games are one a source of development of infant psycho-motricity. It may be explained largely because a child's motor and cognitive capacities are more efficiently developed through games. Playing and learning are two indistinctive aspects, since games pose challenges that lead to open learning (Arufe, 2019; Contell, *et al.*, 2017).

Likewise, games at early ages can develop and strengthen factors with a positive incidence in thin and thick motricity, incorporating aspects like basic movement patterns, coordinating capacities, and conditional capacities (Arufe, 2019).

These factors help in this field of study; motor participation and psycho-motor assessment by panels of experts have been largely required in infant education facilities, particularly by the teachers of these centers (Urrea *et al.*, 2018; Gómez, 2017).

Moreover, González (2018) theorized that motor skills in early education look to enhance the motor patterns through objectives set by the teachers, with a practical perspective to improve behavior at early ages.

Consequently, motor skills are components to be enhanced, particularly the cognitive, sensorial, and socio-affective sides (Alonso *et al.* 2017), who referred to a mentally disabled person as a being one who has lost the capacity of having a fixed and absolute trait with a social and organic origin (Bernate and Tarazona, 2021).

Finally, teachers are not the only actors, as families should play a fundamental role. It must be a complementary mechanism so that the children find support and advice on how to improve every motor work session. It means helping the children emotionally, with values, norms, and discipline, providing the proper spaces to explore and develop recognition by means of games. Parents provide this type of teaching since the pre-born stage, with little movement processes. Hence, children can have all the tools needed from the family and school for motor development, so that they can prevent affective, motor, participatory, or cognitive problems, according to authors who support the importance of motor development in early ages, and its social factors (Rius & Torrebadella, 2019).



CONCLUSIONS

Motricity is evidenced in instruments that permit the easiness through which children start demonstrating the development of their motor skills, which must be practiced in every space. Hence, the intervention of teachers and family to help with development, is essential. They provide the tools and support so that the children can have a higher performance, in terms of motricity, in every setting. The objective is to enhance and stimulate the relevance of motricity in early stages, and their connection to the school and social areas.

Games are essential for the biological evolution of children; besides playing a significant role in physical and psychological development of children, they are an excellent teaching aid for a comprehensive and complex education.

Lastly, motricity is not only movements, but a set of related processes within a person; the muscle, bone, nervous, lymphatic, and digestive systems are interrelated. Hence, every system of the body contributes to the development of actions, such as in thick motricity, when a person not only moves, but also analyzes, thinks, decide, and performs, using a set of components that may change that rationale as part of a disability, an emotion, a feeling, or an objective. Accordingly, people can develop movements differently, more or less effectively, so it offers the physical and cognitive tools to provide development as humans with a feeling of success, and a motivation to improve and optimize the motor capacities continuously.

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