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Abstract:

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Introduction

Children and young people with disabilities have a poorer state of health than other children without disabilities in Sweden. The knowledge about how the children should be included in Physical Education and Health is limited and inclusive Sports material for all children is missing in today's school.

The project challenges standards relating to physical activity in general as well as specifically inclusion in the subject of Physical Education & Health and children with disabilities.

The standards are about who is included and how these standards can be challenged by developing new tools in Physical Education and Health that are relevant to movement throughout the school context. This is done by collaborating with two different companies that design sports and fitness equipment. A starting point for innovation in the project is to ignore obstacles and instead prepare opportunities to create a society in which all children, adolescents, adults are included in sports and health activities regardless of ethnicity, disability or gender.

Aim and theoretical framework

The overall purpose of the research project is to test and develop products and services together with companies that enable inclusive education in Physical Education and Health at school. One purpose is to study how the children perceive the products that are present and develop within the framework of the project. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is central to health and well-being. The norm-critical perspective and learning with the focus on "How we learn" are at the heart of this.

Method

The project uses qualitative approaches through participatory observations, interviews and sequencing of lessons in Physical Education and Health so that the outcome can eventually form the basis for development and evaluation of sports tools in the subject of Physical Education and Health at school. The project is being carried out at 3-4 elementary schools with approximately 10-15 children with and without disabilities, a total of about 50 children aged 10-15 years.

Results

The results from interviews with children with and without disabilities, as well as surveys for Physical Education teachers, have been analyzed and discussed with the companies. There is a need for playful material as well as guides, manuals, instructional films in support of use. There does not appear to be weight training or weights today. The children talk about the joy of movement at the lessons but that it can be difficult with the motor and muscle strength. Rantzows Sport AB plans the prototype Sportblock, various building blocks / building materials that can be built together. Eleiko Group AB has developed the prototype Sand Glove, gloves in different weight for strength training and play. Applications for both sports materials are in both school and sports.

Discussion and conclusions

The present project will contribute knowledge and tools that will make it possible for all to be included in the subject of Physical Education and Health at school. Previous research has often focused on the rights of people with disabilities and has had an evaluative role. Earlier development projects have also focused on custom sports tools that have not been available to everyone. The aim is to challenge existing norms and to have children with disabilities to be the norm for the development of sports equipment for all. Participation in Physical Education and Health will make a difference in the future for the children with disabilities, partly through improved health, and partly based on changed self-expectations and greater confidence in their own capacity throughout the school day. A norm in Physical Education and Health is, for example, in the education where a structure based on the majority's ability to participate is visible.