The Effect of Practicing Social-Movement Games on Increasing Social Skills of Students with Multiple Disabilities: A Single-Subject Study

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Social skills deficits of students with multiple disabilities have made them face various personality and social problems. So, these problems have made it difficult for them to adapt with their surroundings. The interaction between social and movement developments cause that movement and physical activities take an essential role in facilitating social development. If these movement activities are introduced to students through some games, their effects on social skills will also increase. Accordingly, the purpose of the present study is to consider the effects of practicing social-movement games on enhancing social skills of students with multiple disabilities.

Method: The present study was conducted in a single-subject manner using time-series design. The subjects were two students with multiple disabilities (slow step along with cerebral palsy) studying skills of pre-vocational in the town of Khodabandeh in educational year of 1391-1392. In order to collect data about the social skills of subjects, the questionnaire of Gersham and Illiot about social skills were used. Visual analysis was used to analyze the data resulted from evaluating social skills of subjects.

Results: Results of evaluating social skills of subjects before and after practicing social-movement activities collected by parents and teachers indicate that social-movement games can improve the scores of subjects in each of the following criteria: assertiveness, self-control, responsibility and cooperation.

Discussion: Based on the results of the present study which is indicative of effects of practicing social-movement games on enhancing social skills of students with multiple disabilities, it is recommended that the authorities of Exceptional Students Education start to hold training courses to increase the knowledge of teachers and parents in regard to the effects of these sorts of games.

Keywords: games, social-movement games, students with multiple disabilities

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