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## Total Physical Response: Shaking Up the Classroom

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# Total Physical Response: Shaking up the Classroom

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## Methodology

- ❖ **Research Question:** How do we integrate Total Physical Response in teaching a first and fifth grade classroom?
- ❖ **Participants**
  - First grade; 19 students; 14.5% low income
  - Fifth grade: 26 students, 85.4% low income
- ❖ **Lessons**
  - First grade: 2 language arts, 1 mathematics, 1 science, 1 social studies
  - Fifth grade: 1 language arts, 1 mathematics, 1 science
- ❖ **Date Sources:** field notes, photographs, audio and video recordings.
- ❖ **Content Analysis** (Neuendorf, 2002) was used to analyze data

## Literature Review

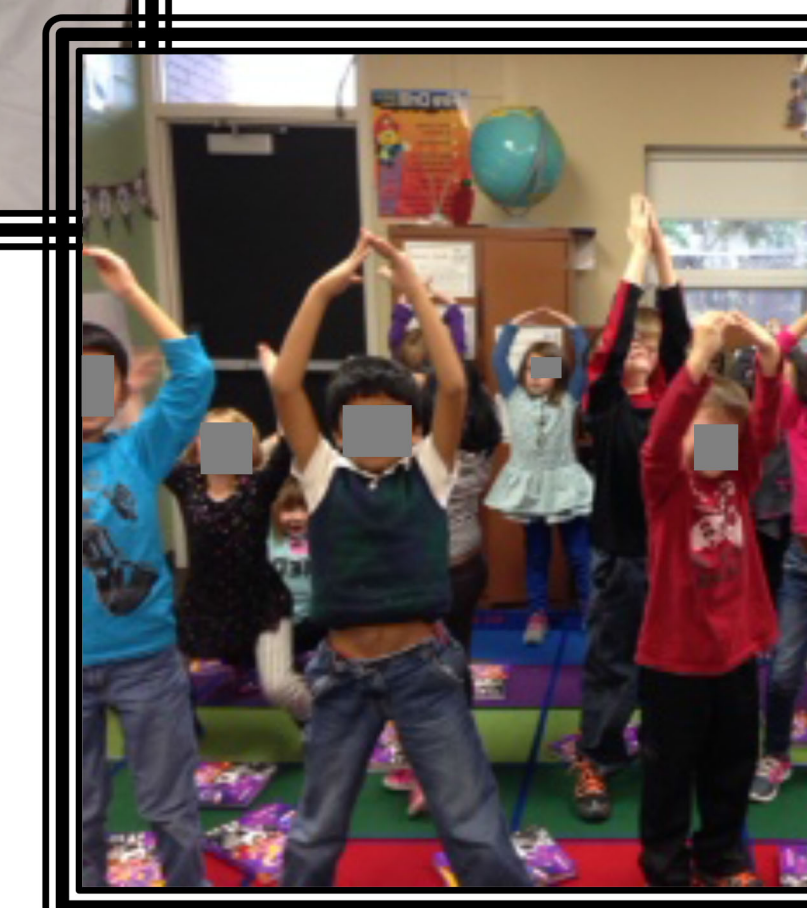
- ❖ TPR activities reinforced the value of physical activity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interactions. It reduced long periods of inactivity in the school day and decreased behavior problems (Orlowski, Lorson, Lyon, and Minoughan, 2013).
- ❖ Drama TPR activities increased student vocabulary use and descriptive writing (Brouliette, 2011).
- ❖ Skoning (2008) observed an increase of comprehension in relation to character, plot, and overall comprehension of the novel when integrating TPR activities in an inclusive classroom.

## Data Analysis and Results

- ❖ Three emerging themes were dance, drama, and reader's theater.
- ❖ In the field notes, Cassandra found an increase in behavior problems while Tara observed improvement in student behavior.
- ❖ Photographs revealed student engagement and demonstrated individuality and collaboration.
- ❖ Video and audio recordings indicated an improvement in student understanding of lesson content through the quality of classroom discussion.
- ❖ Students struggled when questions did not directly relate to the TPR activity.



**Figure 1:** First grade student using to place hour hand and minute hand when telling time to the hour.



**Figure 2:** First grade students acting the definition of the social studies vocabulary word.



**Figure 3:** Fifth grade students learning mathematical definitions through hand movements.

## Conclusion

- ❖ TPR indicates an increase in student comprehension.
- ❖ TPR has a positive effect on student engagement similar to Orlowski et al (2013) and Braniff (2011).
- ❖ Results indicate possible concerns in regards to student behavior.
- ❖ Additional studies need to be conducted to further discover which TPR theme is most beneficial.