



## COOPERATIVE LEARNING IN SPORTS INITIATION: A CASE STUDY IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### INTRODUCTION

Cooperative Learning (CL) is an educational methodology which promotes working in small and heterogeneous groups in which students work together to improve their own knowledge and skills and those of the other members of the group (Johnson, Johnson and Holubec, 1999; Velázquez Callado, 2013).

In Physical Education (PE), CL has demonstrated its effectiveness in several contents (Arumí, 2005; Velázquez Callado, 2010) but there isn't a lot of information about this methodology in sports initiation contents (Fernández-Río, 2013). Therefore, this study describes a real application of the CL in the teaching and learning process of sports in PE at primary school to focus on the possibilities, strengths and weaknesses, of this methodology in sports initiation.

### METHOD

This study is based on qualitative methodology. The research method chosen is the case study and to collecting information we have used: 1) non-participant observation through narratives, 2) in-depth interview, and 3) document analysis.

We have focused in a primary school in Catalonia, where the PE teacher always applies CL in his classes. We have analysed four different sports: volleyball, handball, athletics and racket sports.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The information is currently being processed, but we already have some results: a) CL promotes all pupils participation, including children with and without previous knowledge about sports, or children with disabilities, b) with CL, pupils are the real learning focus and they have an active paper in their own learning process, and c) CL is an interesting methodology to approach sport to children and they can improve their sports skills meanwhile they are developing their social abilities.

### CONCLUSIONS

We have to wait for the final results, but at this moment we are convinced about the advantages of CL in sports initiation at school. In fact, the data analysis we have done until this moment show us several positive aspects about using CL in teaching sports at school related to sports knowledge, motor skills and attitudes and values.



Image 1. Case study



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