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THE EFFECT OF AUTONOMY SUPPORT IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION ON LEISURE MOTIVATION AND INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN OUTSCHOOL PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

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Abstract Recent scientific findings indicate that individuals with ipsilateral eye-hand preference perform better on specific perceptuo-motor tasks compared to those with contralateral eye-hand preference. The present study investigates the effect of the pattern of eye-hand preference (ipsilateral vs. contralateral) on graphomotor performance in school-aged children. Twenty-four 7-year-old children were assigned to two groups: one with ipsilateral and one with contralateral eye-hand preference. Children were asked to copy a verbal and a non-verbal graphomotor task on the surface of a digitizer (A3 Wacom Intuos Digitizer). Data were analyzed using specific software (OASIS NICI, ver. 8.30) with which movement time (sec), mean velocity (cm/sec), mean pressure (gr) and fluency were assessed. Results indicated significant differences between the two groups only in the movement time of non-verbal items, with children with ipsilateral eye-hand preference performing better than those with contralateral eye-hand preference ($p < .05$). The results support the hypothesis that the increased performance of individuals with ipsilateral eye-hand preference is tied to specific graphomotor tasks. The present findings are discussed in relation to the effect of visual control on graphomotor performance.

Key words: Graphomotor performance, ipsilateral-contralateral.

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