

Introduction to Physical Development Module

Mr. Greener, a 1st year teacher at Washington Middle School noted, with discouragement, that a number of students in his class did not meet the proficiency target on the common formative assessment that the math team had developed. Upon questioning his colleagues regarding their successful teaching strategies, he learned that Mrs. Veteran's students had spent time outside, working in pairs to measure portions of their school building in order to master such concepts as perimeter, area, circumference, and volume.

Besides the cognitive and social benefits of this activity, Mrs. Veteran was also mindful of some physical aspects of learning that could be promoted through this lesson. These aspects- movement, oxygen, sunshine, and release of “feel good”, reinforcing chemicals- are some of the physiological correlates of learning we will be exploring in this module.