

Innovative Technology-based Interventions: Virtual Reality for Paediatric Rehabilitation

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ALYN Hospital, a 120-bed center that serves children with physical medical and complex challenges and provides a wide array of rehabilitation services with the goal of promoting healthy, independent lives as adults; many children receive care on an ambulatory basis.

Extended Reality Continuum

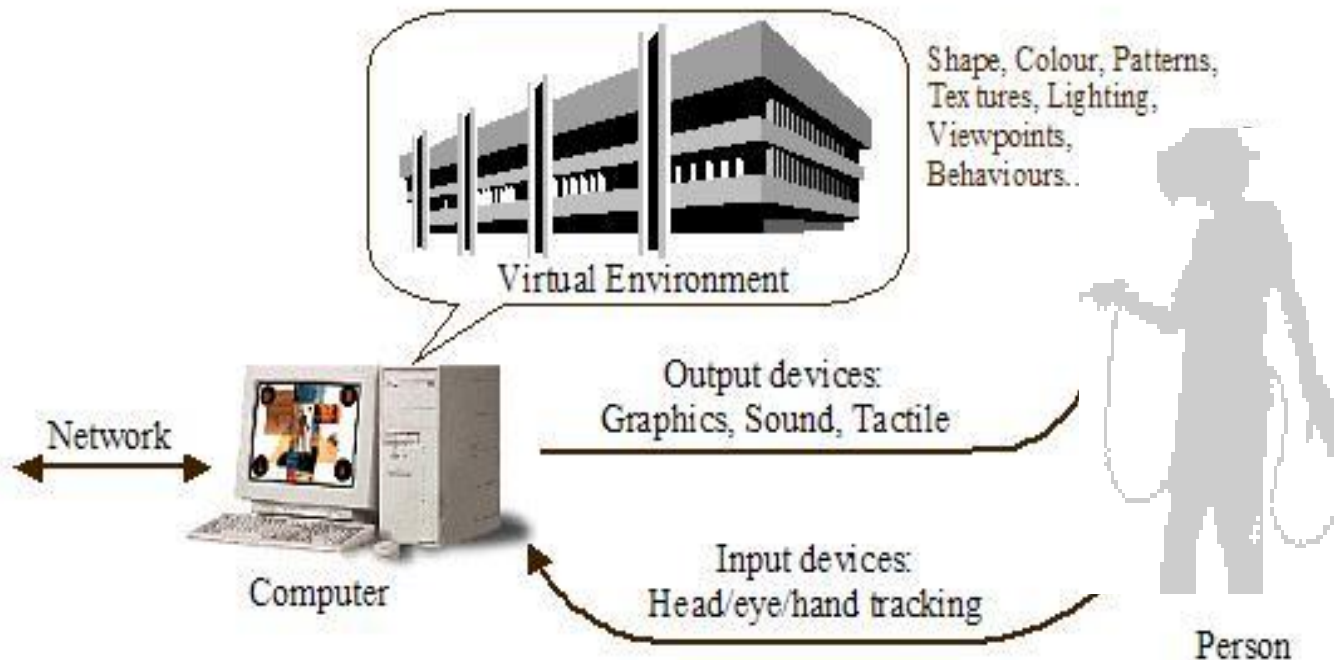
Augmented Reality



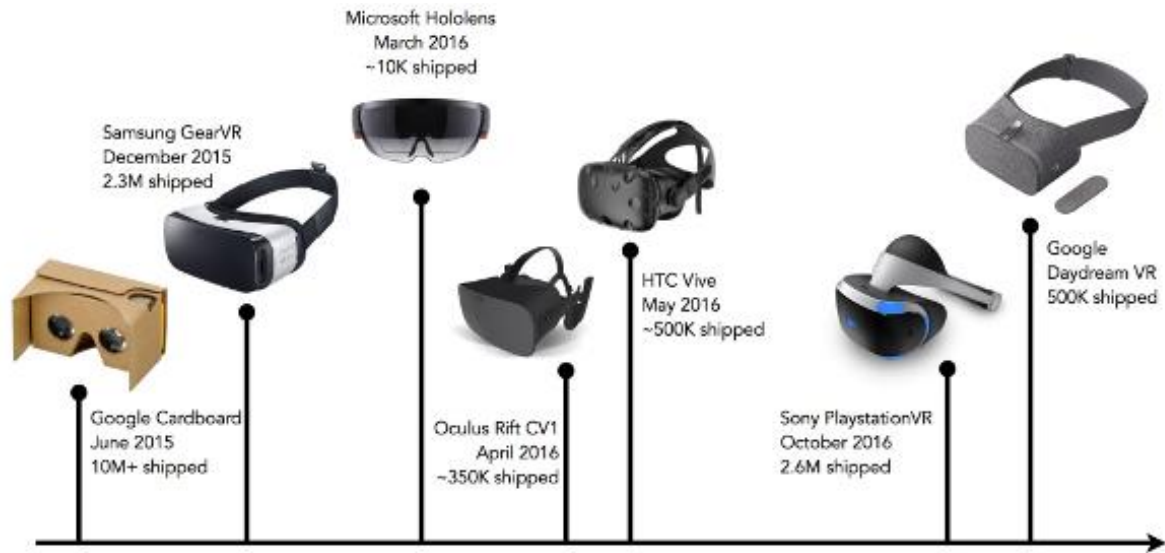
Mixed Reality



Virtual Reality



Head-mounted Displays



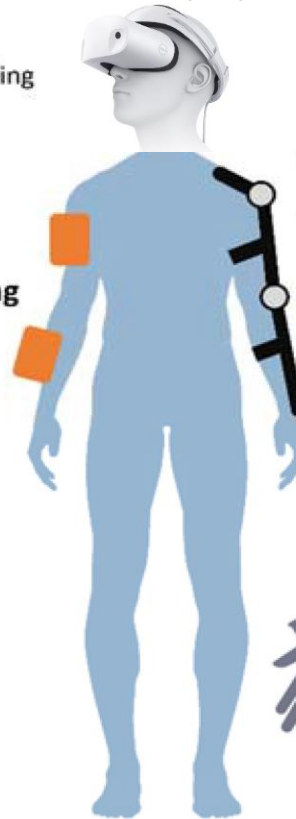
And its MANY alternatives!



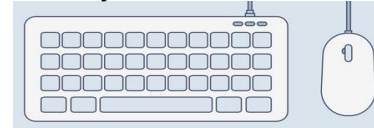
Camera tracking

- Color-based tracking using image processing
- Optical marker tracking
- Depth sensing for body tracking
- Depth sensing for hand tracking
- Image marker tracking

Head mount display



Keyboard & Mouse



Arm Exoskeleton

- Sensor for torque, force, joint rotation
- Potentiometer, optical encoder
- IMU (inertia measurement unit) for joints

Body motion tracking

- Multiple IMU tracking



Controller

- Haptic or Force feedback included
- End point tracking
- Force sensing



Hand exoskeleton

- Hall effect sensors with pneumatic actuators
- Fusion with data glove

Other sensors in devices

- IMU in hand-held controller
- Force or optical fiber curvature sensing for machine handle
- EMG (electromyography) for muscle activity



Data glove

- Bending or optical flex sensor for fingers
- IMU for hand movement
- Accelerometer and gyroscope sensor
- Electromagnetic tracker for global position/rotation

Immersion

- Objective property of a system (hardware e.g., HMD, camera)
- higher or lower immersion as the extent to which a VR system can support natural sensorimotor contingencies for perception

(Sheridan,1992; 2018; **Slater,2010**;
Bailenson et al., 2003; Loomis et al., 1999)

Virtual Presence

VR does **NOT** aim for user to believe the virtual world is real

- Presence is **NOT** about belief
- No one, standing close to a virtual precipice (even with a racing heart and great anxiety, **believes** in the reality of what they are perceiving
- Presence is an **“illusion of being there”**, even though you know, for sure that you are **NOT**
- It is a perceptual **NOT** a cognitive illusion

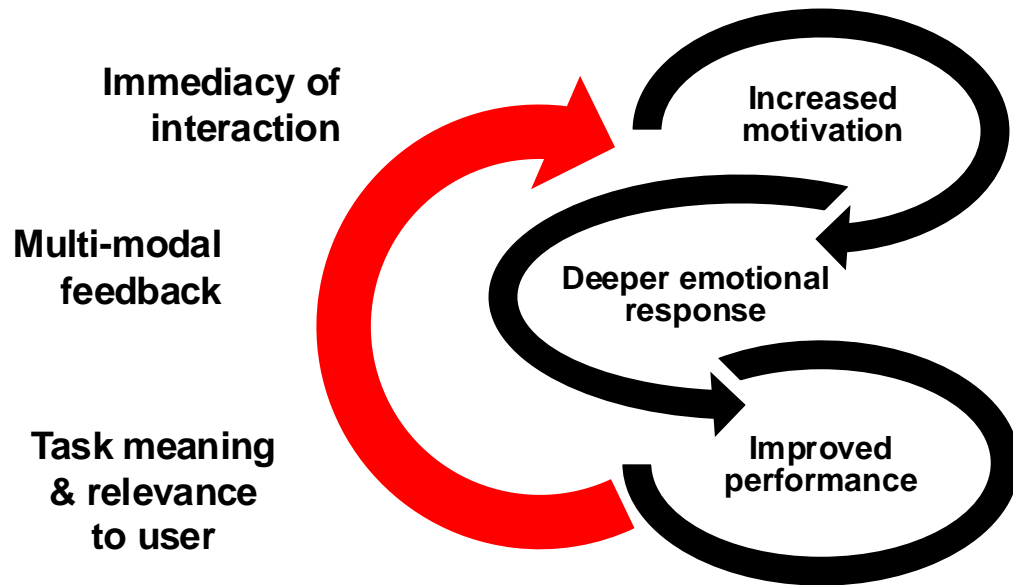
But by then it is too late; physiological & behavioral responses have already occurred!

Virtual Presence

Subjective perception of being present in a virtual environment

When is an HMD really needed for most rehabilitation goals?

- **Distraction**
- **Isolation**
- **Head movement control**



Key Principles for Rehabilitation of motor & cognitive impairment

- task-specific practice
- high intensity, repetitive exercise
- activities that can be graded to be demanding but feasible
- varied, meaningful & purposeful environmental contexts
- increased patient empowerment and participation

(Carr & Shepherd 1987; Winstein 1991; Dean et al. 2000; Lamontagne & Fung, 2005, Weiss, Keshner, Levin, 2014)

Advantages of Virtual Reality for Rehabilitation



Graded levels of difficulty

Ability to repeat different but equivalent tasks



Feedback of results



Increased motivation



Feedback of performance



Safe & protected settings



Documentation of therapy

Example of Motion Capture VR



Example of Motion Capture VR



Virtual game personalization

Basic AI: Heuristic rule-based

User Modelling and User-Adapted Interaction (2021) 31:829–865
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11257-021-09296-6>



Personalized rehabilitation for children with cerebral palsy

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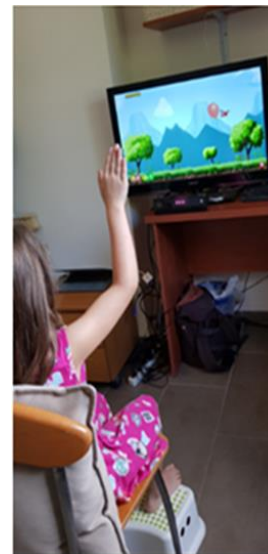
Personalisation of a virtual gaming system for children with motor impairments: performance and usability

Sarit Tresser, Tsvi Kuflik, Irina Levin & Patrice L. Weiss

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Typically developing (TD) child

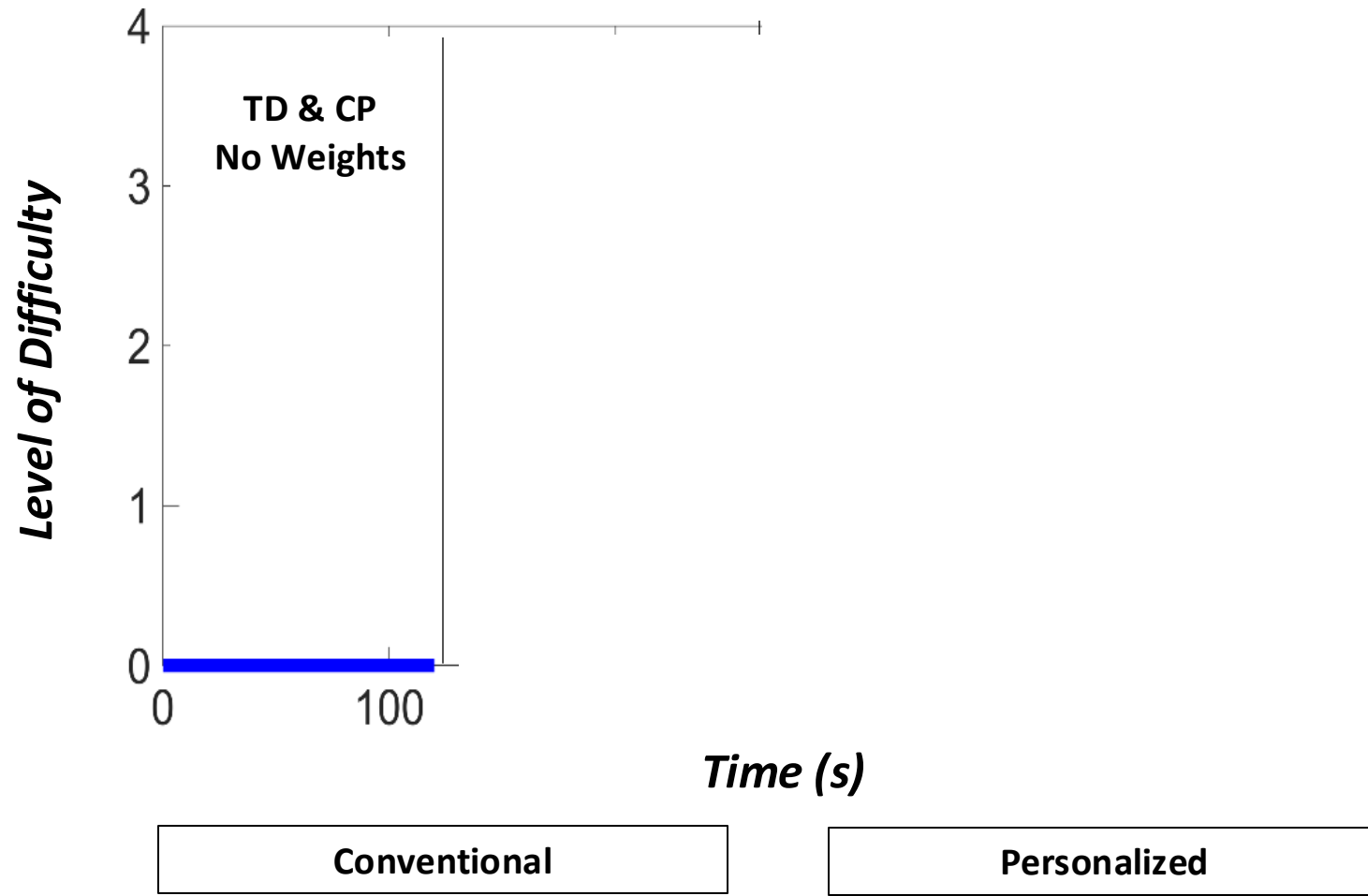


Child with cerebral palsy (CP)

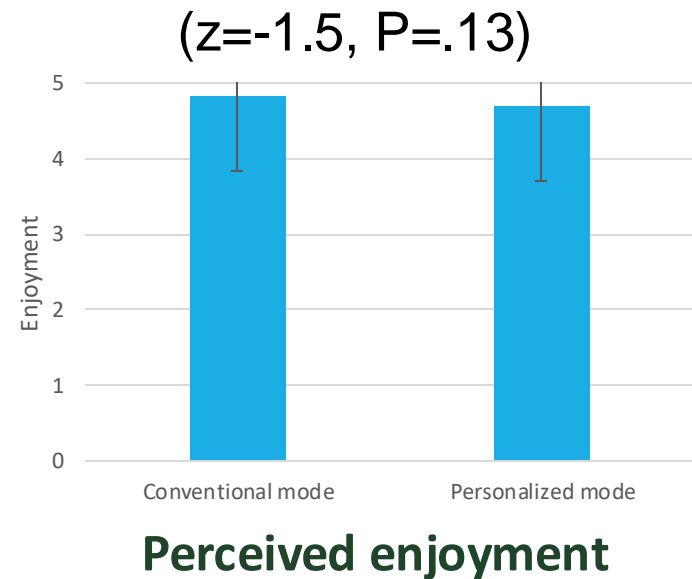
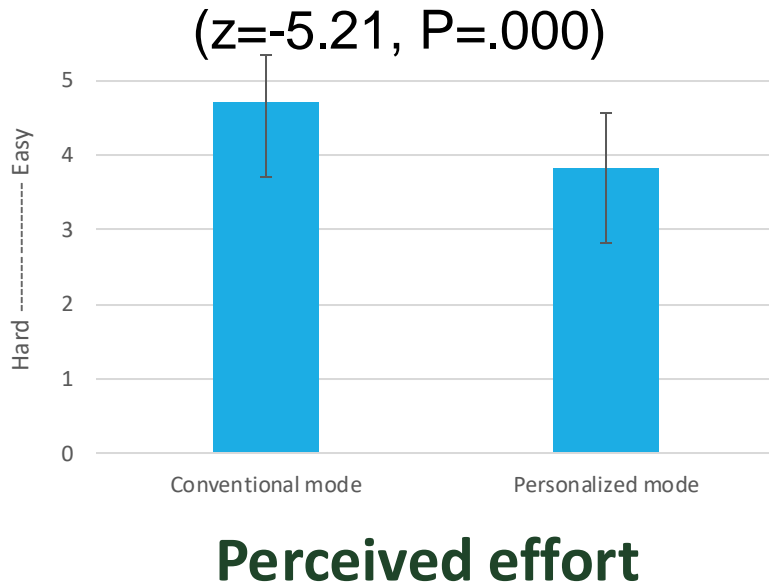
Virtual game personalization



Virtual game personalization



Virtual game personalization

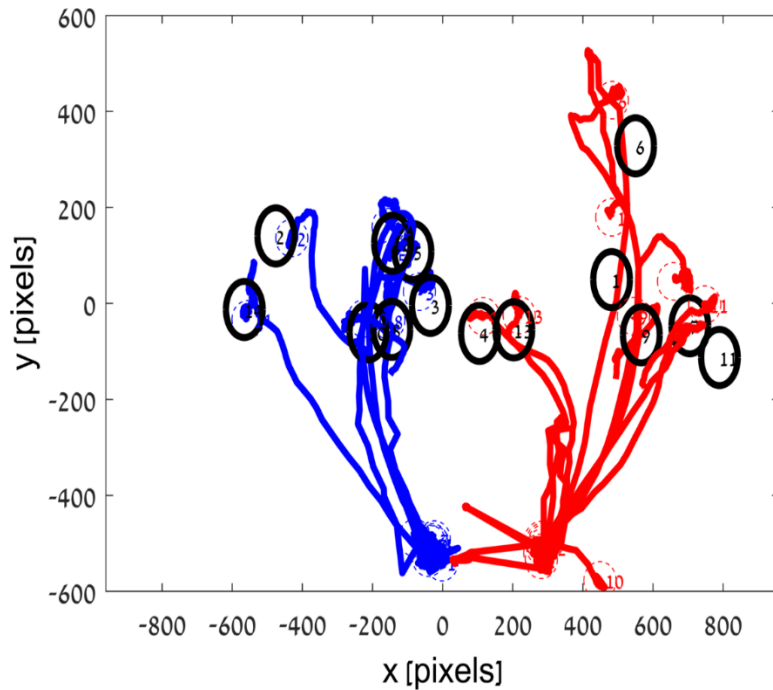


Participants exerted more effort in the personalized game but enjoyed it to the same degree

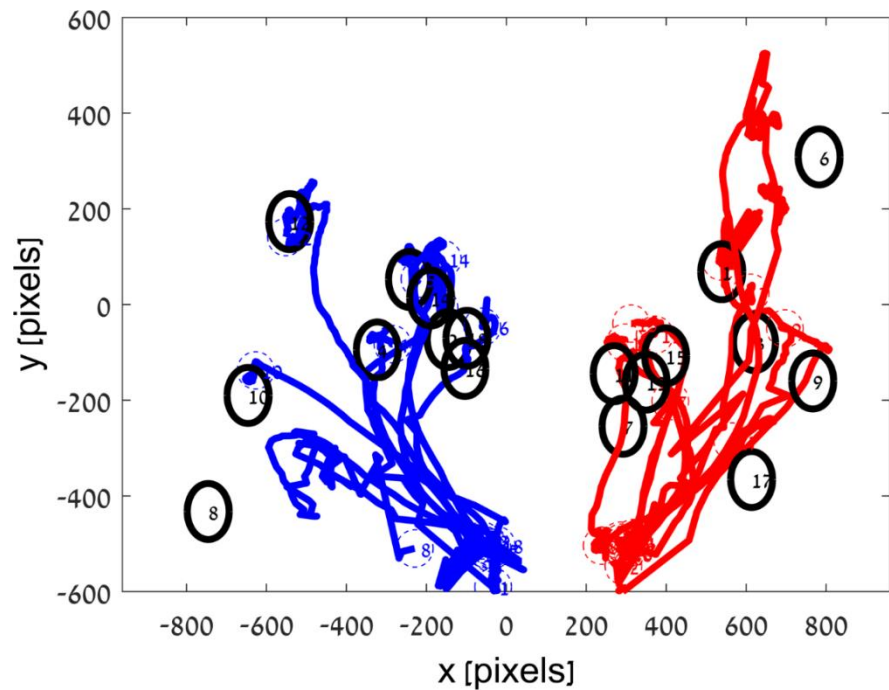
Virtual game personalization

Movement duration was found to be significant larger when playing the personalized game with weights compared to without

($t = -2.35, P = 0.022^*$)



Personalized game without weights



Personalized game with weights (TD group) & CP without weights

Meta-analysis of camera tracking VR



International Journal of
Environmental Research
and Public Health



Review

The Rehabilitative Effects of Virtual Reality Games on Balance Performance among Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

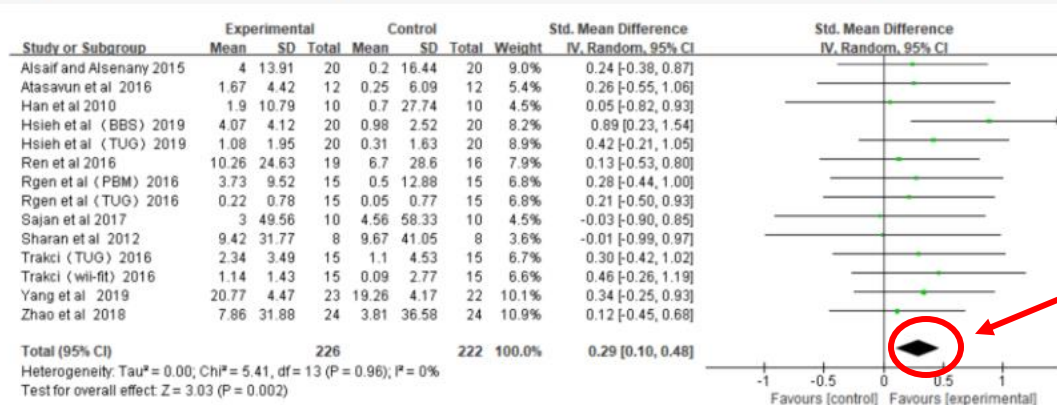
Jinlong Wu ¹, Paul D. Loprinzi ² and Zhanbing Ren ^{1,*}

Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2019, 16, 4161;
doi:10.3390/ijerph16214161

1. To explore effect of VR games on **enhancement of balance** of children with CP
2. To examine influence of VR games on **intervention adherence**: session length, intervention frequency, intervention cycle, and total intervention time)

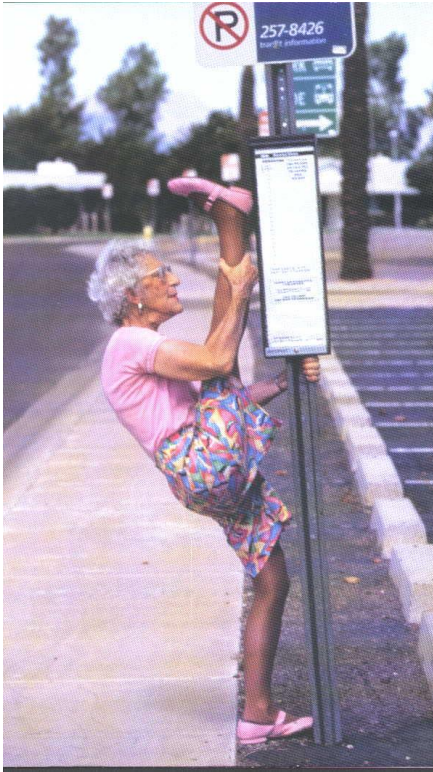
VR Platforms
Nintendo wii fit balance board
Nintendo wii-fit
Nintendo wii fit balance board
Nintendo wii-fit
Q1 situational interactive rehabilitation training system produced by OPEM
Nintendo wii-fit
Nintendo Wii-fit remote control game
Active video games on the Xbox Kinect platform

Figure 3. The effect of VR games on the balance of children with cerebral palsy.



Forest Plot

Consider VR applied to rehabilitation as a Stretch Target



A target which is currently out of reach, but not out of sight

It may require the breaking of previous boundaries and constraints

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