

A MATH TRAINING FOR EARLY MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION: MINA AND THE MOLE

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Keywords: math training; development of arithmetical competencies; preschool

Based on the developmental model of *Fritz & Ricken* the math training „Mina and the mole“ was conceptualized. This training concept is aligned to the five competence levels as defined in the model. It consists of six consecutive modules which are constructed in a systematic way. It targets 4-to-8-year-old children from kindergarten to the second grade of primary school. In a longitudinal study we investigated to what extent the math training affects the achievements of preschoolers. 245 kindergarten children participated in the study. Kindergarten teachers conducted the training program with 128 preschoolers over a period of six months before their school enrollment. 117 children in the control group didn't follow the training program. To investigate the training effects the children were tested for their arithmetic skills (MARKO-0), cognitive abilities (CFT-1) and working memory abilities before, directly after the training and 8 months after the training. We will present the effects of the math training and discuss the long-term effects.

Gerlach, M. & Fritz, A. (2011): *Mina und der Maulwurf. Frühförderbox Mathematik.* Berlin: Cornelsen. (Mina and the mole: a math training).

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