



Teaching Physical Activity: Change, Challenge and Choice

Jim Stiehl, Don Morris, Christina Sinclair

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This book will help you get participants enthused about physical activity by giving them ownership. *Teaching Physical Activity: Change, Challenge, and Choice* guides you in designing activities and games through which you can meet your objectives while engaging all the participants in your class or group.

You engage all participants by creating healthy learning climates where everyone feels safe, capable, successful, motivated, and connected to others, and where they have a sense of ownership in the activities. And that's exactly what *Teaching Physical Activity: Change, Challenge, and Choice* helps you do. That ownership comes from the choices that participants make: First, participants choose from challenges that you offer them, which allow them some self-directed behavior. Second, at a more advanced level, participants can choose among options they generate themselves, imparting a greater sense of autonomy—and with it, a willingness to participate in a more personal and appropriate manner.

These choices result in changes—changes to games and activities and changes in the ways participants view being physically active. Kids will no longer fear being embarrassed in front of their peers; instead, they will welcome the challenges of a safe and fun learning environment and become more fully engaged. These ideas of choice and change are key ingredients in this book.

Other key ingredients include

- foundational material on teaching activities and games,
- 45 ready-to-use games and activities to get you started right away, and
- numerous tips, ideas, and strategies to help you fully understand and implement this approach.

Part I lays a foundation for changing activities in ways that afford proper challenges to participants. It focuses on ways to maximize participation by relating participants' needs to the program goals, and it explores strategies for introducing change, challenge, and choice into your program. It also guides you in the type of communication necessary for successful implementation, and it details the steps involved in sharing decision making with participants. **Part II** includes 45 activities that feature change, challenge, and choice strategies you can apply with your participants. The activities span a variety of physical activity pursuits, such as dance, adventure, and sports.

Written by the leaders of the “changing kids' games” movement, *Teaching Physical Activity: Change, Challenge, and Choice* will help you engage all the participants under your charge, regardless of their levels of skill, fitness, and motivation. Your participants will benefit now, and the experience will pave the way for a lifetime of healthy physical activity.

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