

THE BEHAVIOR PATTERN OF THROWING AND SOME OBSERVATIONS
CONCERNING ITS COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN

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A. The Problem

An interest in the genetic foundations and growth of the motor activities common to the play forms of children in general and of throwing behavior in particular stimulated this study. The main problem was to determine how children of successive age levels use their bodies when executing a hard overhand throw. Four specific objectives were: 1) To study particularly the hard overhand throw as a special but commonly used type, 2) To discover age characteristics in manner of throwing, 3) To discover sex differences in manner of throwing, 4) In a general way to study the development of throwing behavior in children of ages two to twelve.

B. Sources of Data and Methods of Procedure

Thirty-two carefully selected children, a boy and a girl at each six-months' age level from two to seven years and at each year level from seven to twelve years, were the reactors. They were selected because each had achieved normal development in four significant phases of child growth; had homogeneous home and school environment conducive to good health and normal play life; were right-handed. The children attended the preschools, elementary, and junior high schools of the University of Iowa. This professional courtesy was generously extended to the University of Wisconsin.

Observation of nursery school children served to define the problem and to determine the experimental procedure. Data were secured by motion pictures. In a carefully arranged throwing field including distance scale marks and electric clock, each reactor executed three hard overhand throws for filming.