

Dr. Allen Well, I would say first a continuation of the kindergarten - the pleasant, semi-active singing games, such as Ring Around the Rosy, Looby Loo, Round the Mulberry Bush; then the mimetic exercises and hunting and chasing games, but nothing highly organized in the sense of games. These rhythmic plays and games stimulate the hopping, skipping and running which are so beneficial to the physical development of the child.

Mr. Jacobs What about games that call for a high degree of skill, accuracy or fineness of movement for little children?

Dr. Allen I think that should not be overly encouraged. The purpose of games for children is to activate the child in a pleasant way -- with music and with rhythmic games. Games of skill are not so essential at this age. Of course, the children will want to bounce a ball as an individual pleasurable activity, but their neuromuscular system is not highly enough developed for team play.

Mr. Jacobs Where do you think the organized games should begin, that is at what level should they be introduced?

Dr. Allen I think when the hero-worship stage begins, about 12 -- at the gang-spirit age. But I wouldn't organize them into any leagues, even then. I'm speaking of interscholastic competition. I would have groups, and while I would teach my fundamentals through competition, it would not be highly organized competition. I am thinking of junior high scholastic competition, where one school team competes against another. I would discourage that for the reason that the child has too much tension already -- too much nervous tension. But during the summer time it is all right and rather interesting to have twilight baseball leagues. This will keep the child out of doors in active play when he does not have the strain of school life. I think we overdo the competitive side in junior high school.

Mr. Jacobs Do you believe that the training of teachers in elementary schools is adequate to carry on the type of program you describe?