



Logical blocks in times of the Modern Mathematics Movement (1960-1980)

Blocos lógicos em tempos do Movimento da Matemática Moderna (1960-1980)

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Abstract

This text aims, through the historical analysis of activities in Brazilian curricula and programs, to identify elements of the constitution of knowledge to teach classification, seriation and ordering with the use of logical blocks, in order to understand the movement of institutionalization of this knowledge during Mathematics Modern. The adopted references seek to understand professional knowledge of teaching, in different historical times, in view of tensions between the professional field and the disciplinary field of Mathematics and Educational Sciences aimed at legislation, programs, curriculum, decrees, among others with regard to knowledge to teach and to teach. The study suggests that one of the knowledge objectified in Brazilian programs was the ways to approach the logical-mathematical structures in a concrete way, that is, with the logical blocks to build and materialize knowledge referring to the logical structures of classification, seriation and ordering.

Keywords: Logical blocks; Knowledge to teach; Resumes and programs.

Resumo

Este texto objetiva, por meio da análise histórica de atividades em currículos e programas brasileiros, identificar elementos da constituição de saberes para ensinar classificação, seriação e ordenação com a utilização dos blocos lógicos, a fim de compreender o movimento de institucionalização destes saberes durante a Matemática Moderna. Os referenciais adotados buscam entender os saberes profissionais da docência em diferentes tempos históricos, tendo em vista tensões entre campo profissional e campo disciplinar da Matemática, e das Ciências da Educação presentes em legislações, programas, currículo, decretos, dentre outros, no que se refere aos saberes a ensinar e para ensinar. O estudo sugere que um dos saberes objetivados em programas brasileiros, refere-se às maneiras de abordar as estruturas lógico-matemáticas de forma concreta, ou seja, com ênfase no modo em que os blocos lógicos constroem e concretizam saberes referentes às estruturas lógicas de

Palavras-chave: Blocos lógicos; Saberes para ensinar; Currículos e programas.

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Introdução

Within the history of mathematics, manipulatives have long been used to aid in the teaching of the subject and, to a large extent, are thought for the early school years. About the school material culture, Vidal (2017) explains that it has emerged as an object of investigation and a source for the understanding of the history of the school and the process of schooling.

Still on the subject, Souza (2013) points out that, in a historical perspective, from the 19th century on, the relationship between school materials and pedagogical renewal was consolidated in primary education, in several countries of the West, when new modalities of organization of the elementary school were experimented aiming at the universalization of education. Moreover, Roberts (2014) adds that there is a large amount of research on the use of manipulatives materials in the classroom, which demonstrates their use from the 1960s to the present day. On this issue, he explains that the United States, starting in the 1950s, experienced a revival of Montessori, a method developed by educator Maria Montessori (1870-1952), which proposed, at the beginning of the 20th century, the use of various manipulative materials in learning processes. Possibly, this search happened in a context of interest for the renovation of mathematics teaching both in the United States and in Europe, through the development of Pedagogy and Educational Psychology, whose influence extended far beyond mathematics, with the Swiss Jean Piaget, among others.

For the purpose of this text, we will consider manipulable material, concrete material and structured material as school materials. In this sense, Alves (2010, p. 103) presents us with the following understanding about this type of material: "supports and utensils that, in different times and spaces, were invented, mobilized, transposed, disseminated to and by the school".

Among the educators who in the 1960s helped popularize materials in mathematics teaching, we can mention Emile-Georges Cuisenaire, Caleb Gattegno and Zoltan Dienes (1916-2014). The latter, a Hungarian educator, PhD in Mathematics and Psychology, who considered Mathematics as a unique structure, yet used a more concrete methodology. He was one of the great pioneers of studies alluding to methodology for teaching in the early grades, and considered as a reference in the field of Mathematics Education.

Having said this, we believe that the use of materials to assist in the teaching and learning of mathematics has, in fact, a history that precedes electronic technology. In this sense, some of them were proclaimed as revolutionary, as is the case of logic blocks, due to their circulation and promises of modernization in the teaching of mathematics.

Thinking the school environment as a place of knowledge production, Valente (2007) explains us that school knowledge is an element of school culture, and that within the history of school mathematics it is considered a product of culture in teaching mathematics. Thus, this paper aims, from the historical analysis of activities in Brazilian curricula and programs, to identify the elements that constitute the knowledge to teach, its classification, seriation and ordering with the use of logic blocks, in order to understand the movement of

institutionalization of this knowledge during Modern Mathematics. We believe that the historical study of the use of logic blocks can contribute to the understanding of the systematization and objectification of knowledge with the use of manipulative materials. Thus, from our perspective, systematization is a process of transformation of knowledge into knowing, and objectification is the product of this process.

The implementation of the reforms of the education systems in the states of Brazil, referring to the deliberations of the Laws of Directives and Bases of National Education, Law n° 4.024/1961, and LDB n° 5. 692/71, with a policy to expand the number of vacancies in public schools and the extension of free schooling, stemmed from different strategies, among them, the offer of training courses for teachers, in much of Brazil, and distribution of publications addressed to teachers, in order to circulate methodological prescriptions and guidelines for the operation of schools in the new organizational structure of the networks and guidelines concerning the teaching profession (França, 2019).

In this study, we will focus on the prescriptions and guidelines concerning the use of logic blocks as manipulable material during the validity of the ideology of the Modern Mathematics Movement (MMM) which, in general, aimed to "modernize" the teaching and learning of mathematics, changing and updating the contents and methods, encouraging the participation of teachers in events in which issues related to the new teaching proposal were discussed. In this perspective, the national education law, Law n° 4.024/61, provided curricular flexibility to the teaching systems of each Brazilian state, creating opportunities to absorb the ideas of the MMM and new teaching/learning experiences. In its Art. 20, it considers, for the organization of primary and secondary education, that the federal or state law will meet:

- a) the variety of teaching methods and forms of school activity, bearing in mind the peculiarities of the region and social groups; b) the stimulus of pedagogical experiments with the purpose of improving educational processes. (Brazil, 1961).

Another necessary point to be highlighted in order to better understand the constitution of new knowledge refers to the fact that the ideas of Dienes were appropriated by the authors of official Brazilian documents. To a great extent, in the early grades, the teaching programs were influenced by the proposals of this educator. In this article we focus on official sources, that is, the teaching programs elaborated by official agencies.

França (2019), Soares (2014) and Fischer (2007) highlight that Dienes disseminated his investigations in Brazil through study groups, mainly by the Mathematics Teaching Study Group (MTSG), founded in 1961, under the presidency of Oswaldo Sangiorgi, which had George Springer as a collaborator. The authors mentioned here also believe that the constitution and the work of MTSG was extremely important for the implementation and dissemination of MMM in Brazil.

At that time, some publications circulated guidelines concerning the Mathematics to be taught, and also disseminated educational experiences carried out in experimental schools, which established changes in order to standardize the actions of the schools of the newly

created school system, including new methodologies that used the logic blocks. We can infer that these guidelines were objectified in the programs of the period. The objectification of knowledge represents the last stage of the path of transformation of information about teaching experiences into professional knowledge of the teacher.

According to Borer (2017), the *knowledge to teach* is configured as professional knowledge, which is developed through the progressive constitution of a disciplinary field of educational sciences; *the knowledge to teach* is that which comes from the disciplinary fields of reference, constituted by university disciplines; in a more detailed way, we also have the *knowledge to teach*, represented as the object of teaching, and the knowledge to teach, characterized as the teacher's professional tool. For Valente (2017), the knowledge to teach is understood as that which the teacher should use for the formative task (for example, referenced by syllabuses, programs, manuals, etc.), and the knowledge to teach as that which should be mobilized in teaching practice (the ways of dealing with the knowledge to be taught, the ideas of how students should learn this knowledge, their ways of learning, the transformations that the knowledge to be taught should undergo, etc.). The professional knowledge of teaching, on the other hand, can be objectified in legislation, programs, curriculum, and decrees, among others.

In this perspective, we seek to contribute to the constitution of the Mathematics of teaching in the MMM period. It is worth mentioning that the Modern Mathematics Movement favored the analysis of tensions between the professional field and the disciplinary field (Valente, 2021) of mathematics, since it brought transformations in the mathematics of teaching, which for quite some time was anchored in cognitivist psychology and structuralism, with very different characteristics from previous pedagogical waves. The tensions between the field of disciplines and the professional field can be better understood when we check the focus of Mathematics for abstraction. How to didacticize Mathematical structures for children?

We think that the knowledge objectified in official documents may portray the consensus of the discussions between different sectors that participated, in some way, in the production of new reference knowledge during the period of validity of the MMM ideology. We also corroborate with França (2012) when he states that the curricular transformations were derived from appropriations of university disciplines and successful experiences of teachers in experimental classes. On this last aspect, we observed the materialization of these experiments in objectified knowledge, which present data that can be read in the official documents of curriculum reformulation.

According to Valente (2019), these knowledges are considered from new conceptual bases, that is, they are institutionalized over time, in situations of decantation, of stabilization, of consensus on certain knowledge in terms of the explicit, formalized, transmitted and intentionally included in teacher education.

MMM in Brazil and the contributions of Dienes to the early grades

Times had changed, society needed new knowledge, and many discussions about teaching and learning agglutinated educators around the MMM. According to Batista et al (2013), França (2016; 2019), Soares (2014), the Movement began in the mid-1950s, a time when the requirements for professional qualifications and scientific discoveries were associated with the growing appreciation of technologies, and the sciences functioned as prerequisites for economic development

The MMM, based on cognitivism, that is, on Piaget's psychogenetic theory, defends the idea that the individual, from birth and throughout his development, builds knowledge. We can say that this Movement was a series of actions that took place in a large part of the world, originated by the gap between the development of mathematics and its teaching. As far as the scientific production of the MMM is concerned, it is based on structuralism, so that it seeks to analyze social reality based on the construction of models that explain how relationships are based on what are called structures. This movement is based on rationalism, that is, its source of knowledge is reason, and it emphasizes abstraction. In the early grades, Dienes' proposals are conceived with an emphasis on methodology and the introduction of manipulative materials to carry out the activities.

It is worth questioning Dienes' conceptions about the teaching of elementary structures. On this aspect, the author proposes that materials should be mobilized in order to materialize abstract ideas. And how did he do this?

In reflecting about the place of systematized knowledge that uses the logic blocks as a support, which is at issue in this paper, we must consider the emblematic context of Dienes' pedagogical conceptions.

Many analyses have already been made about this movement in Brazil in terms of the political, economic and social reality. In this text, we want to highlight how the renovation movement in the teaching of mathematics produced new teaching knowledge, which is now considered indispensable to pedagogical practice. Today, it is possible to identify knowledge for teaching mathematics systematized and objectified in the official public programs for primary education. In these cases, they are used as "pre-mathematical" activities, which, by means of logic block approaches, that is, logical-mathematical activities, build the concept of number with the child.

Pre-mathematical activities, according to Dienes (1967b), are activities prior to the introduction of the number concept, since for the author, "the concept of number is very complex." For him, based on Piaget (1984), the number is a mental structure built by the child, which involves three basic concepts: conservation (invariance of the number); seriation (order relationship between the elements); and classification (inclusion of an element in a larger element that contains it). Therefore, these structures must be built prior to the introduction of the number concept.

For Piaget (1975), the construction of knowledge is processed by the subject's action,

by the coordination of actions on objects, which are the basis of learning and human development. However, Piaget does not apply this explanation pedagogically, and it is up to educators to experiment with new ways of providing learning to their students.

The formation of the number concept takes place in close connection with the development of the operations of quantity conservation and the logical operations of classification and seriation. Thus, its operative notion is only possible when the conservation of discontinuous quantities, regardless of spatial arrangements, has been constituted. The number results from three fundamental notions: the unit, the class-inclusion, and the seriation (ordering). Therefore, it is a synthesis of seriation and inclusion, and requires the mastery of the following principles: commutativity, associativity, and reversibility. In its elaboration, the logical notions of space by spatial displacements are built parallel to the elementary actions of gathering, separating, serializing, or changing order, that is, making and unmaking determined sets. This construction involves, in parallel, the creation of the real categories of thought: object, space, time and causality. Such constitutions only happen through the relations between the assimilation schemas (implicative relations) and the explanatory relations between objects. Symmetric relations lead to class inclusion; asymmetric relations lead to seriation. The synthesis of the two operations leads to the construction of the number concept, which will occur due to the synthesis of the logical operations, classification and seriation, only possible thanks to the reversibility of thought with the grouping structure (Piaget, 1971; Rangel, 1992).

To exemplify: the basic concepts of number, measure, constants, lines, etc. are logical-mathematical knowledge (mental operations), made up of relations that cannot be observed. These notions are the product of the construction and combination of three mathematical structures, described by Bourbaki as mother structures (algebraic, order and topological), considered fundamental, primitive and irreducible to each other by mathematicians.

Nicolas Bourbaki is the pseudonym under which a group of mathematicians, mostly of French origin, wrote a series of books that began to be published in 1935 on modern mathematics. The group disseminated, in books and articles, changes in the teaching of mathematics, in a structuralist and abstract conception, preaching the use of a logical-deductive approach, and advocating an internal revolution in the discipline based on the development and study of the notion of structure. (Vitti, 1998, p. 55).

The invention of the Logic Blocks is still a matter of controversy today. It is thought to have been appropriated from Maria Montessori (1870-1952), however, in an interview conducted by Soares (2014), Dienes claims authorship of this material starting from the ideas of William Hull (1924-2010).

Dienes' proposal for the logic blocks refers to a methodology that makes use of manipulative materials to carry out mathematical activities, predominantly in group work. But, then, what are logic blocks?

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This is an otherwise structured material with established properties. It is a set made up of 48 pieces of wood or plastic, which have the following attributes: color (red, blue, and yellow), size (large and small), shape (square, rectangle, triangle, and circle), and thickness (thin and thick). There is a proportion between the pieces. The rectangle is half of the square; the triangle is equilateral, each of its sides corresponds to the measure of the side of the square; the measure of the side of the small square corresponds to a quarter of the measure of the side of the big square; the thickness of the thick pieces must be twice as thick as the thin ones. With these variables, you can explore the concepts of set, universe, the logical connectives of conjunction, disjunction, negation, and implication, study groups, rings, and bodies, and you can provoke visual or auditory representations.

It is possible to infer that Dienes³ compiled and systematized his teaching experiences with the use of structured materials, seeking to perform activities with children in order to verify the way they understood abstract ideas. And it was from these experiences, which made use of the logic blocks to develop elementary mathematical structures, that educators from different parts of the world showed great interest in the methodology. The idea was to start school mathematics with these activities, because, according to the new studies that involved pedagogy and learning psychology, the programs should be organized respecting the cognitive development of the child.

The author argued that the process of thought construction by the child begins with the embodiment of structures, so that it depends on this familiarization, on the possible combinations, the transformation of this structure into other more complex ones. This would be the way for the child to later easily reach the number sets and, even more, to discover, understand and combine the mathematical structures and the way they relate to each other. Dienes makes use of the expressions personify/ concretize, to identify activities in which mathematical properties are reproduced by means of structured material - in this case, the logic blocks.

In the author's conception, after a certain number of games that have the same mathematical structure, and that are presented in different forms, using different materials such as buttons, toys, toothpicks, among others, children become aware of the similarities, of the analogy between the elements, despite the different representations; in other words, it is basically the same game. There is the understanding that the stage of the construction of graphical representations, such as the possibility tree, scheme, Cartesian product, double entry table, or enumeration of disjoint sets of clusters, offers the possibility of reaching the solution of counting problems.

It is also noted that Dienes bases himself on Piaget (1971) in arguing about the importance of exposing the child to increasingly challenging situations suitable for the

³ The complete result of Dienes' experiments, known as the Leicestershire Project, was systematized in books such as *Modern Mathematics Learning* (Dienes, 1967a), *Logic and Logical Games* (1974), among others. These books had wide circulation and were published in Brazil, financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) and widely advertised in teacher training courses.

development of the desired mathematical concepts. Thus, Dienes (1967a, p. 29) believes that: "There should be a rich variety of mathematical experiences from which mathematical concepts can be constructed by the children themselves. Many experiences will be necessary for each concept."

The author's work, in the light of Piaget, aims at a new methodology for teaching mathematics in the early years. This new knowledge to teach consists basically in creating activities with games, such as logic blocks, performed in artificial situations, specially built, which concretely illustrate the fundamental structures of mathematics to be explored and the way they relate to each other, giving rise to other more complex ones, in investigative activities, individually or in small groups. For him: "It is from a rich environment that the child can build his knowledge, and we take as an example the learning of the mother tongue" (Dienes, 1967b, p. 1).

Dienes did not believe it was feasible to begin the study of a structure with a treatment by axioms of properties. He proposed the need to familiarize the child with the structure starting from the logic blocks, creating similar structural models that could offer the perception of differences and similarities between the structures analyzed. Then, the game should be made more difficult, including rules to restrict the student's logical movements, raising analytical questions to lead to axiomatic considerations. Dienes wanted the child to think to a logical conclusion, using reasoning that she considered acceptable (Dienes, 1974).

Possible movement towards systematization of knowledge

In this section, we propose a possible movement of appropriation and systematization of Dienes' proposals in official documents referring to pre-mathematical activities with the use of logic blocks. We begin the process by trying to characterize the author's ideas in books, manuals, etc. Then, we select the experiences that can be considered as new knowledge.

In order to understand in a deeper way, the use of the material, and the knowledge systematized by Dienes, which was appropriated by the elaborators and objectified in official documents, we will exemplify some classification, seriation, and ordering activities, objectified in Brazilian programs. We will take as example: curriculum guides of São Paulo (1975), Curriculum Lab do Rio de Janeiro (1976, 1977, 1978), subsidies for the implementation of the curriculum guides (1977), suggested with methodological guidelines to be worked individually or in groups, using the logic blocks.

To a large extent, the documents begin by announcing the possibilities for the successful use of the logic blocks. Then, they present the material to teachers with guidelines on how to use them according to the objectives.

CAPÍTULO 1

INTRODUÇÃO

1.^a SÉRIE

Objetivos: Desenvolver habilidades necessárias à exploração do conceito de número, relativas:

- à coordenação visual, auditiva e motora;
- à discriminação visual e auditiva;
- à orientação espacial;
- ao raciocínio lógico;
- à noção de conjunto universo;
- à noção de inclusão;
- à noção de seriação;
- à noção de correspondência;
- à classificação;
- ao enriquecimento do vocabulário.

Material: Para isso pode ser usada uma grande variedade de materiais, como, por exemplo, os blocos lógicos e o material Cuisenaire.

Blocos lógicos: É constituído por 48 peças, denominadas blocos, que apresentam os seguintes atributos:

- 4 formas (circular, quadrada, retangular e triangular);
- 3 cores (azul, vermelho e amarelo);
- 2 tamanhos (grande e pequeno);
- 2 espessuras (grosso e fino).

Logo, são $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 2 = 48$ blocos. Os blocos são encontrados em plástico ou em madeira. O atributo espessura pode ser substituído: assim os blocos grossos são substituídos por blocos com furo e os finos correspondem a blocos sem furo. Nesse caso, os blocos podem ser confeccionados em papel cartão. O material é indicado sobretudo para iniciação à Lógica Matemática (uso dos conectivos e da negação) e para desenvolver as noções elementares da Teoria dos Conjuntos (pertinência, inclusão, intersecção, reunião e complementação). O material pode ser fa-

blocos lógicos

— 15 —

Figure 1 - Presentation of the logic blocks
Source: Algebra for 1st to 4th grade, 1976.

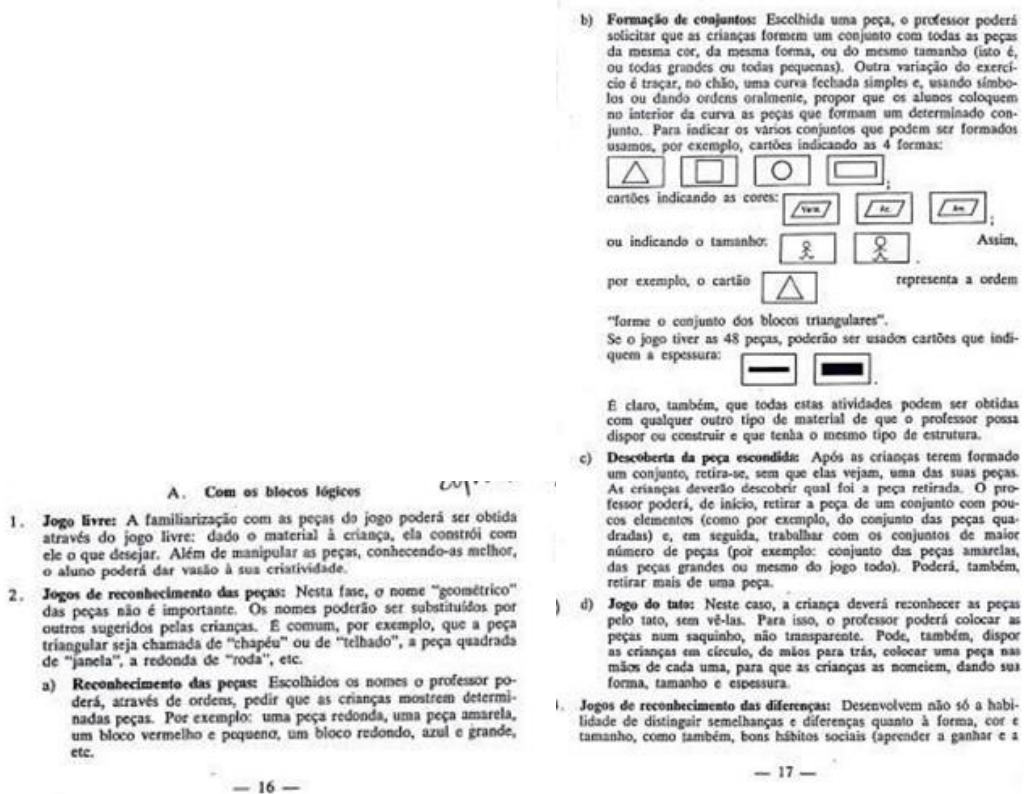


Figure 2 - Example of a sorting activity
Source: Algebra for 1st to 4th grade, 1976.

According to the guidelines set in the publications, it is essential to propose learning situations, as in Figures 2 and 3, in order to promote the acquisition of a language that provides support for abstraction and generalization of concepts, starting from the concrete. That is, a specific vocabulary for the development of set theory, expressing relationships between elements and sets. Thus, the logical classification is determined when the child acquires the concept of pertinence relation and inclusion. At this point, the activities are about exploring classification and class formation activities.

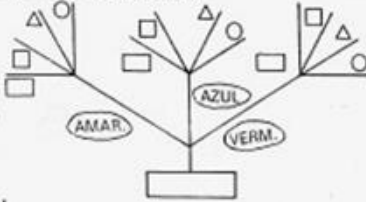
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| fl. 8 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| MÓDULO DE AULAS DE MATEMÁTICA | | | |
| ANULA | OBJETIVOS | ATIVIDADES | AVALIÇÃO |
| 1A | <p>Lado um material estruturado a criança deverá:</p> <p>-descrever com exatidão os atributos de uma peça.</p> <p>-reconhecer ao menos um atributo entre: cor, tamanho, espessura em uma peça.</p> <p>Com um material estruturado a criança deverá:</p> <p>-identificar corretamente dois atributos das peças com que está trabalhando.</p> | <p>MATERIAL: Blocos Lógicos (peças grandes) Crianças agrupadas de 4 em 4 1 caixa para cada grupo Cada criança escolhe uma forma</p> <p>- DESCRIÇÃO DA PEÇA</p> <p>Ex.1: O professor mostra uma peça e a criança diz seus atributos (cor, forma, espessura, tamanho) Ex.2: A criança mostra a peça e descreve seus atributos. Ex.3: O jogo da " peça escondida "</p> <p>. Fazer uma construção com as peças. . Uma criança vira de costas enquanto os companheiros escondem uma peça sua(que está na construção). Esta criança terá que dizer qual a peça que foi escondida usando para isto ao menos um atributo a mais que o atributo forma (quadrado azul). . A seguir, esconde-se a peça de outra criança e repete-se o jogo com as 4 crianças do grupo. . As crianças trocam os lugares a fim de jogar com formas diferentes e faz-se <u>novas</u> construções. . Refazer o jogo ate que cada criança tenha jogado com as 4 formas</p> <p>MATERIAL: Blocos lógicos (peças pequenas) Crianças agrupadas 1 caixa para cada grupo</p> <p>- Reconhecimento de uma peça escondida. . Jogo da " peça escondida "</p> | <p>Observar se o aluno é capaz de:</p> <p>-descrever os atributos corretamente.</p> <p>-reconhecer pelo menos 1 dos atributos da peça escondida.</p> <p>Observar se os alunos são capazes de:</p> <p>- nomear com correção os atributos que podem identificar as peças.</p> |

Figure 3 - MDC-SP Program, 1976
Source: SP, 1977

Atividade 7

Objetivo: Classificação segundo mais de um critério.
Material: (para um grupo de 4 alunos): uma caixa de Blocos Lógicos e 1 cartolina com a reprodução ampliada do esquema abaixo.



Modo operacional
a) Pedir que um aluno de cada grupo coloque todos os Blocos Lógicos na base da árvore.
Observação: Explicar aos alunos que deverão fazer os Blocos Lógicos seguir os caminhos traçados, levando em conta as indicações colocadas em cada etapa.
b) Pode-se, em seguida, acrescentar caminhos que dizem respeito à espessura dos blocos e depois ao tamanho.

Atividade 8

Objetivo: Identificar as peças dos Blocos Lógicos.
Material: Para cada grupo de 4 alunos: uma caixa de Blocos Lógicos. Para cada aluno: 1 folha de papel com a reprodução do esquema abaixo descrito em **Modo operacional** (b).
Modo operacional
a) Distribuir o material para os alunos.
b) Preparar uma tabela em cartolina e pregá-la no quadro-de-giz:

| forma | cor | tamanho | espessura |
|-------|-----|---------|-----------|
| □ | △ | □ | ○ |
| | | AMAR. | AZUL. |
| | | VERM. | grande |
| | | pequeno | grossa |
| | | | fina |

(Os símbolos sugeridos aqui podem ser substituídos por outros mais significativos.)
c) Marcar nessa tabela os atributos de uma peça que os grupos deverão mostrar.

| | | | |
|---|---|-------|--------|
| □ | △ | □ | ○ |
| | X | | |
| | | AZUL. | VERM. |
| | | X | |
| | | | grande |
| | | | X |
| | | | grossa |
| | | | fina |

A marcação vai representar o triângulo, azul, grande, fino.
d) O jogo deve também ser feito com a reprodução das tabelas distribuídas então aos alunos e:
– o professor mostra uma peça;
– cada aluno marca na sua tabela os atributos correspondentes.

Atividade 9

Objetivo: Explorar a noção de classe e o uso da negação (não).
Material: Blocos Lógicos, uma tabela com os atributos dos Blocos Lógicos e corda ou fio de fita colorida.

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Figure 4 - Class formation activities
Source: Rio de Janeiro, 1978.

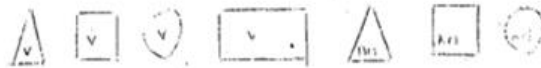
| TÍTULO | OBJETIVOS | ATIVIDADES | AVALIAÇÃO fl.13 |
|--------|--|---|---|
| | <p>- identificar uma sequência e localizar elemento que lhe dará continuidade.</p> | <p>O professor inicia a formação da cobra colorida colocando as peças independente da forma uma atrás da outra, apenas se utilizando de uma sequência pré determinada do atributo cor, (no caso amarelo - azul - vermelho). O aluno deverá observar e continuar a formação da cobra ordenando as demais peças do bloco, as sequências-cor, seguida pela disposição inicial. Nota: Não mencionar ao aluno a sequência-cor. Deixe-os descobri-la.</p> <p>- Formação da " cobra magra " (peças fina dos Blocos Lógicos) .</p>  <p>O professor inicia a formação da cobra e os alunos a continuarão observando a sequência de formas e a mudança de cores de 4 em 4 peças.</p> <p>- Jogo: " Quem descarta "</p> <p>As peças são divididas segundo a forma e distribuídas a 4 crianças: cada uma ficará com um conjunto de peças (□, △, ○, □).</p> <p>Uma 5ª criança será colocada à distância. Inicia-se o jogo colocando-se a cabeça da cobra e, a partir daí, cada criança irá acrescentando uma de suas peças ao jogo. Em dado momento, o professor dará um sinal e a 5ª criança deverá se aproximar e adivinhar qual criança que iria colocar a peça seguinte, dizendo: " quem descarta é..... "</p> <p>Criança A - peças quadradas Criança B - peças circulares Criança C - peças triangulares</p> | <p>- aplicar esta identificação, dando continuidade corretamente a sequência.</p> <p>- localizar corretamente o elemento que dará continuidade a uma sequência.</p> |

Figure 5 - Sequence activity

Source: São Paulo, 1977.

In Figure 4, we highlight the emphasis on oral language, in the recognition of the attributes of objects, in order to verify if the child is able to establish the relationship between them. The activities offered as a guide to the teacher, exemplify the ways that can be developed in proposals for linear serialization of magnitudes, such as ordering from largest to smallest, from thinnest to thickest, from lightest to heaviest, etc.

The seriation activities, as shown in Figures 4 and 5 - here considered as "arranging the objects of a set so that they maintain with their neighbors the same difference relation" (São Paulo, 1982, p. 67) - imply an arrangement or sets of objects. They are sequences of linear ordering or pre-established rules, as suggested in Figure 6.

| ÁULA | OBJETIVOS | A T I V I D A D E S | AValiação |
|------|--|---|--|
| 2ª | <p>Dando um material estruturado a criança deverá:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reconhecer corretamente três atributos de uma peça. <p>- reconhecer corretamente o atributo em comum no agrupamento de algumas peças.</p> | <p>- Jogo da peça escondida Refazer os exercícios do 1º dia, utilizando todas as peças (grandes e pequenas) Pode-se criar uma competição dando a cada criança certo nº de fichas. Cada vez que ela adivinhar corretamente a peça que lhe tiraram por uma ficha em sua frente. Se a criança "achar um melhor nome" para a peça escondida ganhará mais 1 ponto (Ex: um quadrado azul vale 1 ponto, mas um quadrado azul fino valerá 2 pontos). Conta-se "uma partida" cada vez que as crianças mudarem de lugar.</p> <p>- Jogo detetive: As crianças são os detetives. Dispõe-se quatro círculos no chão distribuindo algumas peças de cada forma em cada círculo à medida em que se cita seus atributos. (Ex: um triângulo grande azul na região dos triângulos; um quadrado verde pequeno, na região dos quadrados; um círculo grosso azul na região dos círculos; um retângulo fino amarelo, na região dos retângulos, etc.). O professor escolhe aproximadamente seis peças diferentes para distribuir e pede que os "detetives" acusen se houver erros do professor ao distribuir as peças pelos 4 círculos. (Proporadamente o professor erra e a criança que acusar, deverá explicar porque houve erro).</p> <p>O mesmo jogo poderá ser repetido, tomando por base outros atributos: a cor, o tamanho ou a espessura.</p> | <p>Após 8 partidas observar através da contagem dos pontos, se os alunos foram capazes de:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nomear os atributos de suas peças o suficiente para perfazer pelo menos, o total de 3 pontos. <p>O aluno deverá ser capaz de, com correção:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - perceber em relação a que atributo as peças estão agrupadas. - identificar falhas no agrupamento por atributo. |

Figure 6 - Hidden Game





Source: São Paulo, 1976.

In this serialization activity, Figure 6, the child is challenged to complete the sequence according to an established criterion. We observe that the official documents appropriate the ideas of perspective, that is, the publication proposes activities that are supposed to develop the logical structures of thought.

e) Uma criança vira de costas para a fila e outra lhe mostra uma peça que retirou perguntando: "Qual a **imediatamente** seguinte? Qual a que vem **imediatamente** — antes (sucessor e antecessor).

f) O professor dá os critérios e os alunos arrumam o material segundo esses critérios.

Exemplo:

- todos  vem antes de 
- todos  vem antes de 
- " + " precede "sem +"
- pequeno precede grande.

No caso da exemplificação anterior é preciso que sejam trabalhadas paralelamente:

- semelhanças e diferenças, conduzindo às relações de equivalência.
- ordenações com critérios explícitos, conduzindo às relações de ordem.
- sucessões diversas, onde se procura o "vizinho", isto é, o que vem imediatamente antes ou imediatamente depois, o que só será possível descobrir se a "lei" (ou regra) de formação estiver clara; no caso dos naturais estaríamos falando da função $n \rightarrow 1$, evidentemente. Lembramos que para um trabalho completo sobre cardinais outro ciclo de atividades se faz necessário, com materiais constituídos com conjuntos.

O que se quer é que haja uma real elaboração de conceitos, construção de instrumentos, descoberta de leis, tomada de consciência de processos e não um decorar de regras, símbolos ou definições, sem significado para o aluno.

A real compreensão de uma noção ou teoria implica na reinvenção desta teoria pelo sujeito. Quando a criança é capaz de repetir certas noções e utilizar algumas delas em situações de aprendizagem, dá muitas vezes, a impressão de compreender; contudo, isto não preenche a condição de reinvenção. A verdadeira compreensão se manifesta através de aplicações espontâneas; em outras palavras, uma generalização ativa supõe muito mais: parece que o sujeito é capaz de descobrir por si as verdadeiras razões que envolvem a compreensão da situação e, por conseguinte, reinventá-la, pelo menos parcialmente. (1)

Dai a necessidade de trocar as exposições (escritas ou orais) pela seqüência bem sucedida de atividades que desafiem os alunos, interessando-os e incentivando-os a agir mais que a ouvir passivamente.

"Comentários sobre Educação Matemática" — Jean Piaget, do livro "Developments in Mathematical Education". Cambridge University Press, 1973. pag. 79. Editado por A. G. Howson

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Figure 7- Serialization activity model
Source: Rio de Janeiro 1979.

- *Modo operacional:*
 - pedir aos alunos que coloquem na caixa todas as peças (blocos lógicos) que forem azuis ou retângulos;
 - Nota: A caixa passará a conter:
 - todos os retângulos;
 - todas as peças azuis (sejam retângulos ou não)
 - tirar uma peça da caixa (sem que os alunos a vejam) e escondê-la; perguntar se a peça escondida é azul ou retângulo;
 - mostrar depois a peça e novamente perguntar se é azul ou retângulo;
 - Nota: As crianças observarão que a peça poderá ser:
 - azul;
 - retângulo;
 - azul e retângulo (as duas coisas ao mesmo tempo)
 - repetir as operações acima propostas, até que as crianças concluam que as peças da caixa são azuis ou retângulos.

Figure 8 - Use of logical connectives
Source: Rio de Janeiro, 1979.

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By recognizing the relation of pertinence and inclusion, children can order the sets and thus proceed to the other stages - matching and biunivocal matching - by defining sets from the naming of their attributes, analyzing the distribution patterns of their elements and the common properties between them.

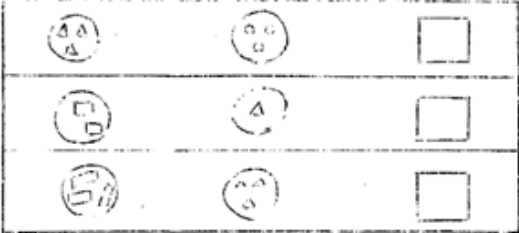


| AULA | OBJETIVOS | ATIVIDADES | AVALIAÇÃO fl. 32 |
|------|---|---|--|
| 154 | <p>Dados dois ou mais conjuntos a criança deverá ser capaz de:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - verificar corretamente a existência ou não da correspondência biunívoca entre os elementos de dois ou mais conjuntos. - identificar corretamente os conjuntos equipotentes (com mesmo nº de elementos). | <p>MATERIAL: Folhas mimeografadas.</p> <p>- Verificação da correspondência biunívoca de dois conjuntos.</p> <p>Ex: Numa folha com desenhos de conjuntos mimeografados a criança irá assinalar com V os conjuntos que estão em correspondência e com X aqueles que não estão em correspondência.</p>  <p>- Identificação de conjuntos equipotentes.</p> <p>Ex: Numa folha com desenhos mimeografados, a criança irá ligar os conjuntos que "tem a mesma quantidade".</p>  |  <p>Observar se a criança é capaz de:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - estabelecer relações em diversas situações, através de ilustrações. - identificar, entre vários conjuntos dados, aqueles que são equipotentes, através da verificação da existência de uma correspondência biunívoca entre seus elementos. |

Figure 9 - Establishment of biunivocal correspondence.

Source: São Paulo, 1976.

In figures 9 and 10, the child develops order structures, that is, from ordinal number to cardinality relations. He identifies the property of same number of elements in a set, entering the numbering system. Here, it is worth mentioning that the number property was indicated by correspondence games, using logic blocks. For this representation, we observed the use of numerals already known by the child, rather than new symbols, since we did not identify activities that encourage such a possibility.

The images analyzed above are from the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro programs, respectively, and portray guidelines to teachers during the MMM period. Let us remember that at that time the official publications, besides being normative and directives concerning contents, grading, evaluation, among others, took on a didactic character, for the immediate application by the teacher of methodologies adequate to the new structural approach to mathematics. As for Zoltan Dienes' ideas, there was the perception that they would be easily applicable and achievable in the classroom with the use of logic blocks.

The reformulation of the curriculum, proposed by the governments of many Brazilian states, triggered the preparation of numerous other publications for teachers of early grades, containing methodological guidelines, suggestions for activities and theoretical training to support their practice, based on the systematization of Dienes' proposals.

Some considerations

Returning to our objective, which consists in identifying elements of the constitution of knowledge to teach classification, seriation and ordination with the use of logic blocks, in order to understand its movement of institutionalization during Modern Mathematics, we can say that the reflections made led us to the perception that the new knowledge is constituted from appropriations by official documents of Dienes' ideas, that is, involves the use of logic blocks for the development of logical thought structures, such as acquiring a proper vocabulary, identifying properties of the elements of a set, determining concretely the elements of a sequence, establishing relations among elements and between elements and set, establishing biunivocal correspondence, identifying the common property of the same number of elements of a set, differentiating ordinality structure for cardinality.

We can consider that one of the knowledge objectified and institutionalized in Brazilian programs was the concrete way to approach the logical-mathematical structures, that is, the use of logic blocks to build and implement knowledge related to the logical structures of classification, seriation and ordering. In this sense, we observed proposals that worked with sets of objects in games with the material, forming sets (studying sometimes the common characteristics of the objects of a set, sometimes discovering the common attribute of the elements of another set, or exploring sets of sets of objects that have the 'same property', thus facilitating the visualization of the abstract idea of classifying, sorting, and ordering).

We understand that the proposals in curricula and programs, courses for teachers and books, among others, aimed at the structuralist approach to mathematics, which proposed practices through manipulative activities, in this case, using the logic blocks, and that, according to the conception of mathematical learning, contributed to the construction of the elementary notions mentioned above. These activities offer several examples of how to realize mathematical structures, through situations in which the child experiences artificially constructed experiences using logic blocks. Thus, there is the possibility of building logical-mathematical reasoning, from the elaboration of relationships between the pieces, from the concrete to the abstract.

In summary, the knowledge objectified in the educational programs studied, using the logic blocks to approach pre-mathematical activities, put into circulation during the MMM, pointed to a new mathematical knowledge, that is, they emphasized the processes that precede the introduction of the number concept, working on classification, seriation and ordering activities.

In general, we can say that the constitution of this knowledge followed processes,

which included Dienes' appropriation of the current literature on children's learning. Then, the author conducted teaching experiences that were published in books with wide circulation in the academic and school community. Finally, this knowledge was objectified in curricula and programs as in the examples cited in this paper.

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