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Multisensory Feedback in Gymnastics Education: A Kinematic Study on Skill Acquisition in Youth Athletes

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Abstract

Background: Feedback is considered a fundamental component of motor skill learning, yet evidence comparing the effectiveness of visual, verbal, and combined feedback modalities in youth gymnastics remains limited. This study examined the effects of mixed (visual + verbal), visual, and verbal feedback on the acquisition of selected gymnastics skills using two-dimensional kinematic analysis. **Methods:** Sixty female gymnasts aged 7–11 years were randomly assigned to mixed feedback (n = 20), visual feedback (n = 20), or verbal feedback (n = 20) groups. Participants completed an 8-week gymnastics training program. Performance in the Front Scale, Back Scale (Knee–Knee), Back Scale (Shoulder–Knee), and Split Jump was assessed at pre-test, mid-test, and post-test using Kinovea-based kinematic analysis. A mixed-design ANOVA was conducted to evaluate the effects of feedback modality, time, and the Group × Time interaction. Bonferroni-adjusted post hoc comparisons were performed where appropriate.

31 **Results:** Significant Group \times Time interactions were observed for the Back Scale (Knee–Knee)
32 ($F = 3.375, p = .020, \eta^2 = .106$), Back Scale (Shoulder–Knee) ($F = 32.662, p < .001, \eta^2 = .534$),
33 and Split Jump ($F = 3.510, p = .023, \eta^2 = .110$), indicating that performance improvements
34 differed across feedback conditions. Mixed feedback generally led to greater improvement than
35 visual or verbal feedback for these skills. In contrast, although Front Scale performance
36 improved over time, the Group \times Time interaction was not statistically significant ($F = 1.680,$
37 $p = .160$), suggesting that improvement patterns did not differ significantly among feedback
38 modalities for this skill. Across all analyses, verbal feedback alone tended to produce smaller
39 improvements than mixed or visual feedback. **Conclusion:** The findings indicate that the
40 effectiveness of feedback modalities may depend on the specific gymnastics skill being learned.
41 Mixed feedback appears particularly advantageous for skills requiring greater coordination and
42 postural control, whereas no clear superiority of any feedback modality was observed for Front
43 Scale performance. Integrating visual demonstrations with verbal instruction may therefore
44 represent an effective strategy for enhancing motor skill acquisition in youth gymnastics.

45 **Trial registration:** ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT07082647). Registered retrospectively on July 15,
46 2025.

47 **Keywords:** motor learning, augmented feedback, youth gymnastics, kinematic analysis, skill
48 acquisition.

50 Introduction

51 In recent years, studies on the role of feedback in motor skill learning have advanced the
52 identification of effective teaching strategies, particularly for young athletes. Research
53 examining visual, verbal, and mixed (visual + verbal) feedback has revealed that each technique
54 supports different learning processes. Meta-analyses and systematic reviews indicate that
55 augmented feedback combining visual and verbal modalities accelerates skill acquisition and
56 retention, whereas visual-only or verbal-only feedback produces moderate effects (Sigrist et al.,

2013; Wulf & Lewthwaite, 2016; Han, Ali, & Ji, 2022; Zhou, Shao, & Wang, 2021). Verbal feedback is particularly effective in increasing attentional focus and promptly correcting technical errors, while blended feedback enhances intrinsic motivation and learning retention through the synergy of both modalities (Tzetzis et al., 2008; Wulf et al., 2010; Chiviacowsky & Wulf, 2007).

Despite these findings, existing studies are generally limited to single movements or short-term practice, and their kinematic effects on multiple technical elements in children's gymnastics (aged 7–11) have received limited attention. Moreover, recent reviews indicate that few experimental studies directly compare multiple feedback modalities (e.g., visual, verbal, mixed) within the same research design (Petancevski et al., 2022; Starzak et al., 2022). These studies also highlight inconsistent methodologies, heterogeneous outcome measures, and a lack of standardized kinematic evidence supporting such comparisons. In addition, most kinematic investigations in gymnastics have focused on single elements or older/elite athletes rather than on several technical elements in preadolescent children (Mkaouer et al., 2023). Therefore, the current study aims to fill this gap by examining the kinematic effects of mixed, visual, and verbal feedback on several gymnastics elements in this age group (Bouزيد et al., 2025).

Recent evidence further suggests that the effectiveness of augmented feedback may vary across developmental stages and task complexity. For example, younger learners tend to benefit more from visually enriched feedback because observational learning mechanisms are highly active during childhood, whereas older or more experienced performers may rely more effectively on verbal and self-regulated feedback strategies (Petancevski et al., 2022; Starzak et al., 2022). Furthermore, studies conducted in artistic gymnastics, physical education, and motor skill learning contexts have reported that multimodal feedback may enhance movement accuracy, coordination, and retention more effectively than single-modality feedback, although findings

81 remain inconsistent across age groups and movement tasks (Han et al., 2022; Mödinger et al.,
82 2022; Zhou et al., 2021). These inconsistencies highlight the need for further experimental
83 studies directly comparing multiple feedback modalities within the same developmental
84 population.

85 Performance improvement is a fundamental goal in sports biomechanics. Effective movement
86 relies on neuromuscular coordination, anatomical factors, cognitive abilities, and physiological
87 capacities. Biomechanics experts play a key role in enhancing performance in technique-
88 dominant skills (Knudson, 2007). Kinematics allows quantitative analysis of positions, angles,
89 velocities, and accelerations of body parts, providing essential insight into angular motions,
90 which are crucial in most human movements (Medved, 2000; McGinnis, 2013).

91 Gymnastics skills require integrating high-level mental and physical skills. Basic gymnastics
92 training is vital in children because it positively affects motor development and fosters a sense
93 of accomplishment (Mitchell et al., 2002; Holfelder & Schott, 2014). Motor skill is defined as
94 voluntary movement of one or more body parts directed toward a learned goal (Gallahue et al.,
95 2014), and all skills, no matter how simple, must be learned technically and systematically
96 (Özer & Özer, 2007). For this reason, teaching methods that shorten skill acquisition time, such
97 as visual demonstrations or video feedback, have been increasingly emphasized (Rucci &
98 Tomporowski, 2010; Özer & Özer, 2007).

99 Instructors' feedback during the learning process is a critical tool for ensuring skill acquisition
100 (Koruç et al., 2012). It can be internal, derived from sensory information about one's own
101 movements, or external, provided through verbal instructions, visual demonstrations,
102 scoreboards, or video recordings (Wuest & Bucher, 2003; Schmidt & Wrisberg, 2008; Magill
103 & Anderson, 2017). Combining verbal and visual feedback is thought to maximize learning by
104 reinforcing understanding through demonstration and explanation (Kızılör, 2022). However,

105 despite its widespread use in sports pedagogy, there remains limited comparative evidence on
106 the relative effectiveness of these multisensory feedback types, particularly in teaching
107 fundamental gymnastics skills. In addition, the need for objective kinematic verification of
108 performance improvements has been emphasized, as traditional observational assessments may
109 not fully capture the nuanced motor patterns associated with skill development.

110 The present study specifically investigates the effects of mixed, visual, and verbal feedback on
111 the technical development of fundamental gymnastics elements in children aged 7–11. The
112 research question is: To what extent and in what order are mixed feedback (verbal + visual),
113 visual feedback, and verbal feedback effective in teaching the front scale, back scale (knee-to-
114 knee and shoulder-to-knee), and split jump elements in gymnastics education? The findings aim
115 to provide further evidence regarding this question and advance theoretical understanding of
116 feedback-mediated motor skill learning in young athletes.

117 Beyond its empirical contribution, the present study has both theoretical and practical
118 significance. Theoretically, it provides an opportunity to examine how different feedback
119 modalities influence motor learning within the frameworks of Social Cognitive Theory and the
120 OPTIMAL theory of motor learning. In practice, the study offers evidence-based guidance for
121 coaches and physical education practitioners on selecting feedback strategies during skill
122 instruction. In addition, the use of objective kinematic measurements enables a more precise
123 evaluation of performance changes than traditional observational assessments, thereby
124 contributing to the growing integration of biomechanics and motor learning research.

125 The present study is grounded in well-established theoretical frameworks of motor learning,
126 particularly the Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) and the OPTIMAL theory of motor learning.
127 According to Social Cognitive Theory, observational learning and self-efficacy play central
128 roles in skill acquisition, suggesting that visual feedback enhances performance through

129 modeling processes. In contrast, verbal feedback contributes to cognitive reinforcement
130 (Bandura, 1997).

131 Social Cognitive Theory further emphasizes the reciprocal interaction among behavioral,
132 cognitive, and environmental factors during learning processes. Within sport settings, learners
133 acquire new skills not only through direct practice but also by observing models, evaluating
134 their own performance, and developing self-efficacy beliefs regarding task execution (Bandura,
135 1997). Visual feedback, therefore, represents a mechanism through which athletes can compare
136 their performance with an external model and modify movement patterns accordingly.

137 Similarly, the OPTIMAL theory of motor learning highlights the importance of enhanced
138 expectancies, autonomy support, and an external focus of attention in promoting motor learning
139 and performance. According to this framework, feedback is most effective when it facilitates
140 attention toward movement outcomes while simultaneously supporting learner motivation and
141 confidence (Wulf & Lewthwaite, 2016). Consequently, multimodal feedback may represent a
142 particularly effective instructional strategy because it combines informational and motivational
143 functions within a single learning environment.

144 Drawing on Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 1997), observational learning processes suggest
145 that visual feedback may facilitate skill acquisition by providing learners with accurate
146 movement models. Similarly, the OPTIMAL theory proposes that motor learning is enhanced
147 when attentional and motivational mechanisms are simultaneously activated (Wulf &
148 Lewthwaite, 2016). Because mixed feedback combines visual modeling with verbal
149 reinforcement, it may provide complementary sources of information that facilitate both
150 cognitive processing and movement execution. Accordingly, the following hypotheses were
151 developed based on these theoretical perspectives.

152 **Study Hypotheses**

153 H_1 : When gymnasts receive different types of feedback (visual, verbal, and mixed), each
154 feedback modality will have a significant effect on kinematic performance.

155 $H_{1.1}$: The mixed feedback method (visual + verbal) will generally result in greater performance
156 improvements than the other feedback modalities, particularly in complex gymnastics skills.

157 $H_{1.2}$: In the split jump element, the visual feedback method will lead to the highest kinematic
158 performance compared to other feedback types.

159 $H_{1.3}$: The verbal feedback method is expected to result in lower performance improvements
160 than mixed feedback, particularly in complex gymnastics skills.

161 $H_{1.4}$: A significant improvement in the kinematic measurements of exercises performed with
162 the feedback type will be observed over time. For example, the differences between baseline
163 and post-feedback measurements will be significant.

164 **Methods**

165 **Determination of Sample Size**

166 An a priori power analysis was conducted to ensure that the study was adequately powered to
167 detect the primary effect of interest, namely the Group \times Time interaction in a 3 (Group: mixed,
168 visual, verbal) \times 3 (Time: pre, mid, post) repeated-measures mixed design. Given that this
169 interaction reflects both between-subjects and within-subjects variability, the analysis was
170 performed using the MANOVA: Repeated Measures, Within–Between Interaction procedure
171 in G*Power 3.1 (Faul et al., 2007), which is recommended for multivariate repeated-measures
172 designs, particularly when sphericity assumptions may be violated.

173 Pillai's trace (V) was selected as the multivariate test statistic due to its robustness to violations
174 of normality and covariance homogeneity. The analysis was conducted using an effect size of
175 $f(V) = 0.35$ (medium-to-large), an alpha level of .05, a desired statistical power of .85, three
176 groups, and three repeated measurements.

177 The analysis yielded a noncentrality parameter of $\lambda = 14.21$, a critical F value of 2.45, numerator
178 degrees of freedom of 4, denominator degrees of freedom of 110, an estimated Pillai's V of
179 0.218, and an achieved power of 0.8555. These results indicated that a minimum sample size
180 of 58 participants was required to detect the expected interaction effect reliably.

181 Given that the present study included 60 participants, the sample size exceeded the minimum
182 requirement, confirming that the study was sufficiently powered to detect meaningful Group \times
183 Time effects and supporting the statistical adequacy of the research design.

184 **Participants**

185 The study employed a randomized controlled experimental design. Athletes from an amateur
186 gymnastics club were recruited using a purposive sampling method. Participants were randomly
187 assigned to groups using a computer-generated randomization sequence, and allocation was
188 implemented through sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes prepared by an
189 independent researcher who was not involved in data collection or analysis. This procedure
190 ensured allocation concealment and minimized potential selection bias (Schulz et al., 2010),
191 thereby enhancing the study's internal validity and allowing a more accurate comparison of
192 performance differences across groups over time (pre-, mid-, and post-training).

193 Parental informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to data collection, and the
194 relevant institutional ethics committee approved the study protocol. The study population
195 consisted of female gymnasts aged 7 to 11 who were training at facilities affiliated with the
196 Talas Youth and Sports District Directorate of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

197 All participants had at least one year of organized gymnastics experience and were actively
198 involved in regular club-based training. Athletes participated in gymnastics training
199 approximately two to three times per week and competed at the local or regional amateur level.

200 Participants were recruited from the same training environment, which helped ensure a
201 relatively homogeneous level of technical experience and exposure to coaching practices.

202 Following a brief familiarization with the selected gymnastics skills (Front Scale, Back Scale,
203 and Split Jump), participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups. The first group
204 (Mixed Feedback Group, n = 20) received both visual (video-based) and verbal feedback; the
205 second group (Visual Feedback Group, n = 20) received only visual feedback; and the third
206 group (Verbal Feedback Group, n = 20) received only verbal feedback.

207 Inclusion criteria were as follows: being female, aged 7-11 years, actively participating in
208 gymnastics training, and medically fit to train (all participants held valid athlete licenses
209 requiring health clearance). Given that all participants were amateur athletes undergoing similar
210 training programs and possessed basic gymnastics knowledge, no additional skill-level criteria
211 were applied.

212 Exclusion criteria included being male, not participating in gymnastics training, having a
213 medical condition that could limit physical activity, or falling outside the specified age range.

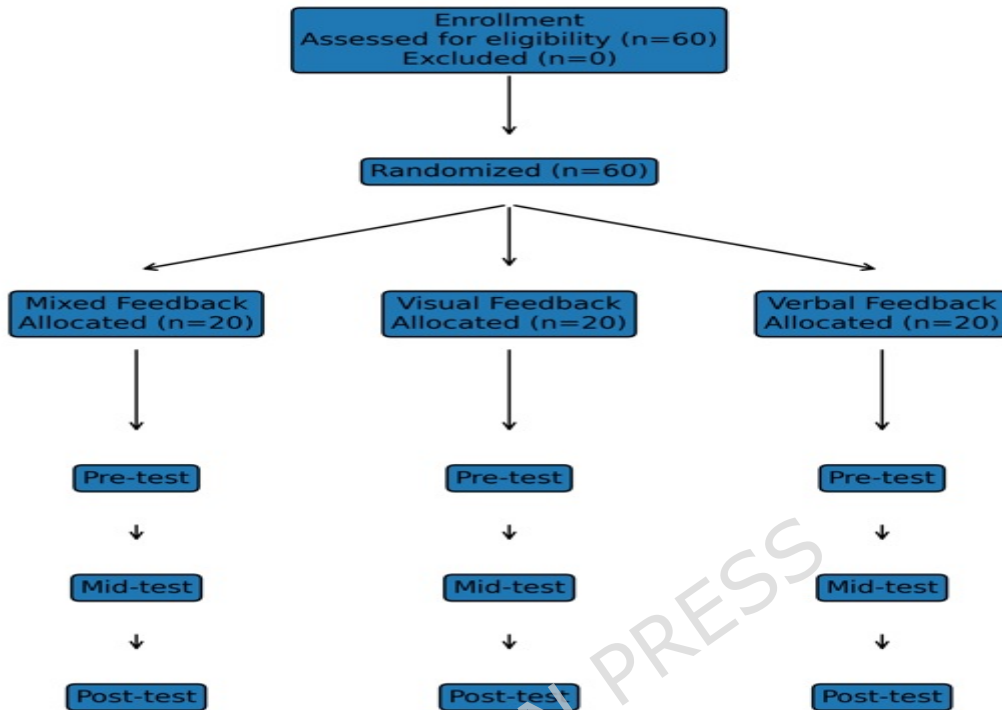
214 The reporting of this randomized controlled trial follows the CONSORT (Consolidated
215 Standards of Reporting Trials) guidelines to ensure transparency and completeness. All
216 randomized participants completed the study, and no attrition occurred during the intervention
217 period. The randomization sequence was generated by an independent researcher using a
218 computer-based random number generator. This researcher had no role in participant
219 recruitment, outcome assessment, or statistical analysis.

220 Participant enrollment, randomization, group allocation, and repeated measurement time points
221 are illustrated in the CONSORT flow diagram (Figure 1).

222 Clinical trial registration was completed after the intervention and data collection procedures
223 had been concluded. The study was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov on July 15, 2025 (Identifier:
224 NCT07082647). Therefore, the trial should be considered retrospectively registered. The
225 registration was undertaken to improve research transparency, facilitate public access to the
226 study protocol, and ensure compliance with current reporting recommendations for intervention

227 studies.

228



229

230 **Figure 1.** CONSORT flow diagram illustrating participant enrollment, group allocation, and
 231 repeated measurement points (pre-test, mid-test, and post-test) in the randomized controlled
 232 trial.

233 **Measures**

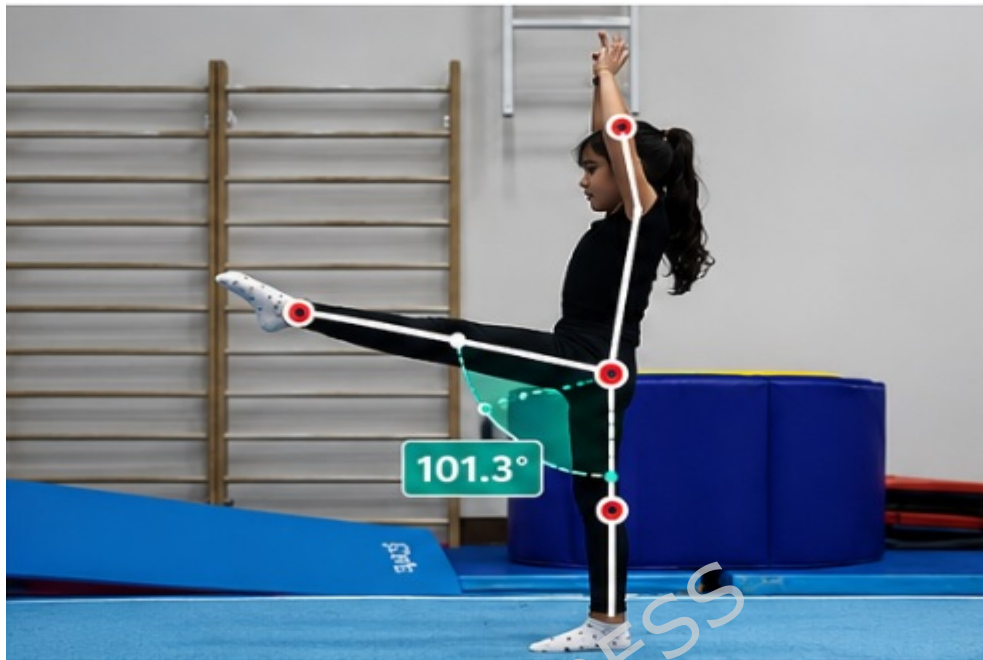
234 **Body Weight Measurement**

235 The participants' body weights were measured using a Xiaomi electronic scale with an accuracy
 236 of ± 0.1 kg (Toprak, 2019). Height was measured using a stadiometer, and BMI was calculated
 237 as body mass (kg)/height (m^2), following standard anthropometric procedures (WHO, 2000;
 238 Lohman et al., 1988).

239 **Height Measurement**

240 Participants' heights and leg lengths were measured using a Fisco brand tape measure with an
 241 accuracy of ± 0.1 cm, following standard anthropometric procedures (Hayta, 2019; Lohman et
 242 al., 1988; Stewart et al., 2011).

243

244 **Front Scale**

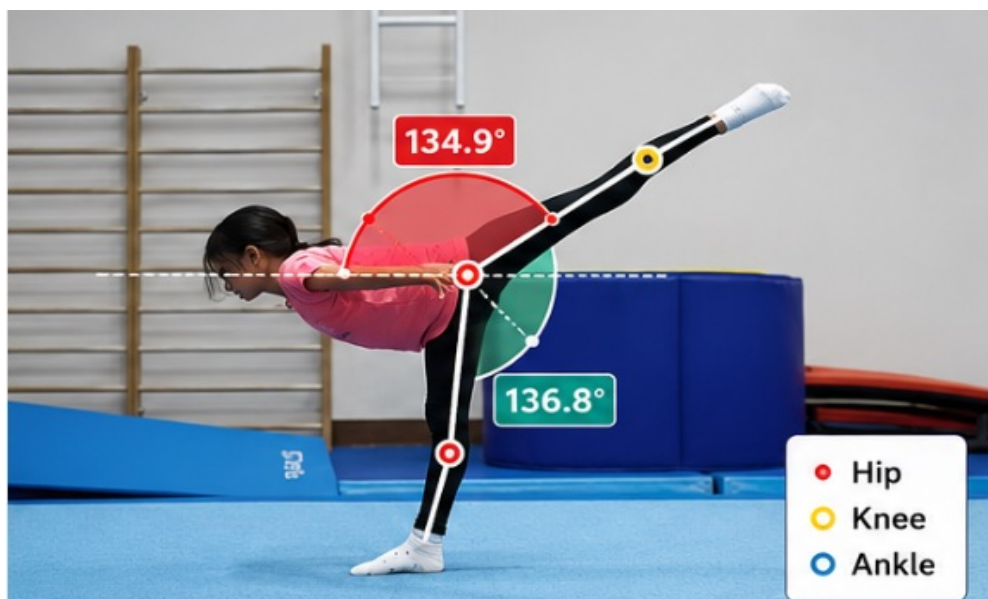
245

246

247

248 **Figure 2.** Front scale.

249 In Figure 2, the basic posture begins with position and posture. With the arms up and one foot
 250 stretched above 90 degrees, the other foot at the bottom is raised to the toes and held steadily
 251 for 2 seconds (Kilimç, 2021).

252 **Back Scale**

253

254

255

Figure 3. Back scale.

256

In Figure 3, the movement begins with a standing and basic posture. In gymnastics, it is a

257

posture in which one of the feet is on the ground, and the body weight is on one leg. In the scale

258

pose, the other leg is raised while maintaining full extension. The arms are open at the sides

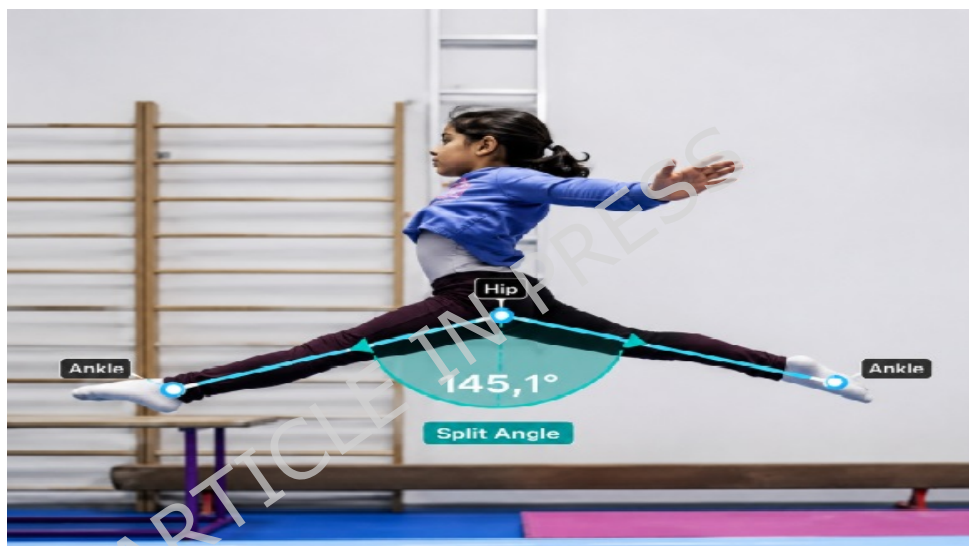
259

and at shoulder level. The body and arms are parallel to the ground (Kılınç, 2021).

260 Split Jump

261

262



263

264

265

Figure 4. Split jump.

266

In Figure 4, during the split jump, the arms are positioned above, and the legs are opened

267

forward and back, creating a 180-degree angle (Kılınç, 2021).

268

Participants performed three trials for each gymnastics element during every testing session.

269

To reduce the influence of random performance fluctuations, the mean value obtained from the

270

three trials was used for statistical analysis. All trials were recorded under identical testing

271

conditions and analyzed using the same measurement procedures.

272

273 Kinovea Video Analysis

274

Kinematic analyses were performed using Kinovea software (version 0.9.5), a validated open-

275 source motion analysis tool widely used in sports biomechanics. Video recordings were
276 obtained using a Redmi Note 11 smartphone positioned 3 m from the participant and
277 perpendicular to the primary plane of motion. All videos were recorded at a frame rate of 60
278 frames per second (fps) and a resolution of 1920×1080 pixels. These recording settings were
279 selected to ensure sufficient temporal and spatial resolution for kinematic analysis of
280 gymnastics movements.

281 The device was mounted on a tripod to ensure recording stability throughout data collection.
282 Recordings were analyzed frame by frame to determine joint angles during Front Scale, Back
283 Scale (Knee–Knee), Back Scale (Shoulder–Knee), and Split Jump performances. Previous
284 studies have demonstrated excellent validity and reliability of Kinovea for angular
285 measurements in human movement analysis (Balsalobre-Fernández et al., 2014; Puig-Diví et
286 al., 2019). For each gymnastics element, the frame corresponding to the maximal performance
287 position was selected for analysis. Specifically, the highest leg position was analyzed for Front
288 Scale, the maximal angular displacement was analyzed for both Back Scale conditions, and the
289 frame corresponding to the highest jump position was selected for Split Jump assessment.

290 Figure 5 presents a representative example of the angle analysis procedure performed using
291 Kinovea software.

292



293

294

295

Figure 5. Kinovea analysis.

296

Kinematic analyses were conducted using two-dimensional (2D) video recordings, which

297

enabled assessment of movement patterns within the primary plane of motion.

298

Calibration Procedures

299

Before each data collection session, the recording setup was calibrated to ensure accurate pixel-

300

to-metric conversion. A calibration object of known dimensions was positioned within the

301

measurement plane at the same height and orientation as the movements being performed. This

302

calibration procedure was repeated at the beginning of every session to establish spatial scaling

303

and minimize parallax and perspective-related errors frequently encountered in two-

304

dimensional motion analysis (Borghese et al., 2001).

305

Rater Blinding and Measurement Workflow

306

To reduce potential bias, all kinematic measurements were performed independently by two

307

trained raters who were blinded to participant group assignments and measurement time points.

308

Blinding was achieved by assigning randomized identification codes to video files and

309

removing identifiable metadata. The order of video analyses was randomized, and all raters

310

followed a standardized measurement protocol to ensure consistency and reproducibility across

311

repeated assessments (Lopes et al., 2018).

312

Reliability Analysis (3×3 Mixed-Model Design)

313

A 3×3 mixed-model design was used to determine the reliability of the kinematic

314

measurements. Each rater performed three repeated measurements, allowing assessment of both

315

interrater and intrarater reliability. Because the same raters were treated as fixed effects and

316

participants as random effects, reliability was estimated using a two-way mixed-effects

317

intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) model. ICC(3,1) (single measures) and ICC(3,k)

318

(average measures), based on absolute agreement, were calculated in line with established

319 methodological recommendations (Koo & Li, 2016). All ICC values were reported with
320 corresponding 95% confidence intervals.

321 Measurement error was quantified using the standard error of measurement (SEM), calculated
322 as $SEM = SD \times \sqrt{(1 - ICC)}$, and the minimum detectable change at the 95% confidence level
323 (MDC95) was computed as $MDC95 = SEM \times 1.96 \times \sqrt{2}$.

324 All reliability analyses were conducted and reported in accordance with GRRAS guidelines
325 (Kottner et al., 2011). This mixed-model ICC approach offers an appropriate estimation of
326 reliability in contexts where the same raters are expected to conduct future evaluations (Weir,
327 2005).

328 Interrater reliability was excellent across all kinematic variables, with ICC(3,k) values ranging
329 from .92 to .98. Intrarater reliability coefficients ranged between .90 and .97. SEM values varied
330 between 1.12° and 2.34° , whereas MDC95 values ranged from 3.10° to 6.49° . These findings
331 indicate excellent measurement consistency and support the reliability of the kinematic
332 assessment procedures.

333 **Front Scale Analysis**

334 The highest angular distance between the knee joints and the two legs was measured on the
335 front scale (stance over 90 degrees with the leg forward).

336 **Back Scale Analysis (Knee-Knee) And (Shoulder-Knee)**

337 The maximum angular distance between the knee joints of the hind leg and lower leg (knee-
338 knee) and between the shoulder and hind leg (shoulder-knee) was recorded during the scale
339 movement. Although the backscale (knee-knee) and backscale (shoulder-knee) elements were
340 tested in the same movement, their angular values were recorded and evaluated independently.

341 Note: A decrease in the shoulder-knee angle indicates increased flexibility.

342 **Split Jump Analysis**

343 When the split jump was performed, the angle between the knee points was recorded at the

344 highest value achievable between the legs.

345 **Table 1.** Educational program.

Weeks	Lesson 1	Lesson 2
1	Running, Animal Walks, Forward Roll, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Animal Walks, Forward Roll, Backward Roll, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Balance (static) Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
2	Running, Animal Walks, Forward Roll, Backward Roll, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Static Strength Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Animal Walks, Roll Exercises, Cartwheel, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Staircase Exercise, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
3	Running, Stretching Exercises, Animal Walks, Roll Exercises, Cartwheel, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Plyometric Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Balance (static) Exercise, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
4	Running, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Dynamic Strength Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand Exercise, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Stretching Exercise, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
5	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, Roll Exercises, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Static Strength Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, Roll Exercises, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Staircase Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
6	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Plyometric Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
7	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Dynamic Strength Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Stretching, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Running Exercise, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits
8	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, Cartwheel, Handstand, Front Scale, Back Scale, Split Jump, Static Strength Exercises, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits	Running, Stretching, Animal Walks, An overview, Back Scale, Split Jump, Bridge, Middle Split, Front Splits

346

347 Table 1 provides details of the gymnastics training program implemented for participants, two
 348 days a week, for eight weeks. Each session lasted 40 minutes. Each participant completed their
 349 training for the same amount of time. The week of the lesson and the movements applied in the
 350 training program are indicated in the table.

351 **Feedback Intervention Procedures**

352 All intervention sessions were conducted by the same gymnastics coach, who had more than
 353 five years of experience working with youth gymnasts. To ensure consistency across groups,
 354 the coach followed a standardized intervention protocol throughout the study.

355 Participants attended two training sessions per week for eight weeks. Each session lasted
 356 approximately 40 minutes. Feedback was provided immediately following each performance

357 trial of the target gymnastics skills (Front Scale, Back Scale, and Split Jump).

358 In the Visual Feedback group, participants viewed video recordings of their own performances
359 together with a model demonstration performed by an experienced gymnast. Videos were
360 displayed on a tablet computer immediately after each trial. Participants were allowed to review
361 the recordings twice before performing the next attempt.

362 In the Verbal Feedback group, participants received standardized verbal instructions focusing
363 on body alignment, posture, balance, flexibility, and movement execution. Feedback statements
364 were delivered using a predetermined instructional script to ensure consistency across
365 participants and sessions.

366 In the Mixed Feedback group, participants received both visual and verbal feedback
367 simultaneously. Following each trial, participants first reviewed the video recording of their
368 performance and then received standardized verbal explanations highlighting strengths,
369 movement errors, and corrective strategies. This combined approach was designed to provide
370 both observational and instructional information during the learning process.

371 To minimize instructor-related bias, the same coach delivered all feedback sessions, and
372 identical training content was implemented across groups. The only difference between groups
373 was the type of feedback provided.

374 **Analysis Of Data**

375 The data were analyzed using SPSS version 27. The normality of the data distribution was
376 assessed using the Shapiro–Wilk test. Descriptive statistics, including frequency analysis, were
377 used to summarize participants' demographic characteristics.

378 Given that the data met parametric assumptions, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was
379 conducted to examine between-group differences, while repeated-measures ANOVA was used
380 to assess within-group changes over time. Baseline group comparisons were examined using
381 one-way ANOVA. The primary analyses were conducted using mixed-design ANOVA to

382 evaluate the effects of Group, Time, and Group \times Time interactions on gymnastics performance.
 383 When significant effects were identified, Bonferroni post hoc tests were applied to determine
 384 the source of differences. Changes in performance over time were primarily interpreted in terms
 385 of interactions between group and time.
 386 In addition to statistical significance testing, effect sizes were interpreted to assess the
 387 magnitude of differences, following conventional thresholds (small = 0.01, medium = 0.06,
 388 large = 0.14) (Cohen, 1988). Partial eta squared (η^2) values were reported for all ANOVA
 389 results to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of practical significance. Assumptions of
 390 sphericity were tested using Mauchly's test, and Greenhouse–Geisser corrections were applied
 391 where necessary. Bonferroni adjustments were used to control for Type I error inflation in
 392 multiple comparisons (Field, 2018; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2019). To complement null-
 393 hypothesis significance testing, 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) were calculated and
 394 reported for all primary outcome variables. Confidence intervals were used to provide
 395 additional information regarding the precision and stability of estimated effects and to facilitate
 396 interpretation of the practical significance of observed performance changes.

397

398 RESULTS

399 **Table 2.** Descriptive statistics for the mixed, visual, and verbal feedback groups.

Group	N		Age	Height	Weight	BMI	Leg length (cm)	Thigh length (cm)	Calf length (cm)
Mixed feedback	20	Min	7	121	22.4	14	61	31	27
		Max	10	143	35.8	19	81	46	35
		X	8.05	129	27.15	16.50	68.15	36.75	31.45
		SD	0.94	5.43	3.71	1.43	5.23	3.68	2.28
Visual feedback	20	Min	7	121	22	14	61	31	27
		Max	10	143	36	20	81	46	36
		X	8.10	128.70	27.00	16.70	68.70	36.85	31.40
		SD	0.85	4.81	3.69	1.63	5.47	3.77	2.52
Verbal feedback	20	Min	7	121	22	14	61	31	29
		Max	10	143	36	20	81	46	36
		X	8.45	128.8	27.15	16.80	69.20	37.35	31.75

SD	0.83	4.72	3.86	1.57	5.20	3.65	2.12
----	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Min=Minimum, Max = Maximum.

400

401 Table 2 presents the demographic and anthropometric characteristics of participants in the
 402 Mixed Feedback, Visual Feedback, and Verbal Feedback groups. The groups exhibited highly
 403 similar distributions across age, height, body weight, body mass index (BMI), leg length, thigh
 404 length, and calf length. Mean age ranged from 8.05 to 8.45 years, while mean BMI values
 405 ranged from 16.50 to 16.80 kg/m² across groups. Likewise, anthropometric measurements
 406 demonstrated only minor variations between groups. These descriptive findings suggest that
 407 the groups exhibited broadly similar demographic and anthropometric characteristics prior to
 408 the intervention.

409 **Table 3.** Pre-test comparisons of the groups based on the dominant feedback method applied.

Elements	Group	\bar{x}	SD	p
Front scale	Mixed Group ¹	99.01	17.16	0.13
	Visual Group ²	105.29	11.40	
	Verbal Group ³	106.93	8.64	
Back scale (knee-knee)	Mixed Group ¹	108.49	17.27	0.11
	Visual Group ²	120.74	17.20	
	Verbal Group ³	119.93	25.44	
Back scale (shoulder-knee)	Mixed Group ¹	157.60	3.34	0.16
	Visual Group ²	158.36	3.38	
	Verbal Group ³	156.40	2.91	
Split jump	Mixed Group ¹	115.46	8.84	0.15
	Visual Group ²	99.95	37.78	
	Verbal Group ³	109.33	18.78	

410

1=Mixed Group, 2= Visual Group, 3= Verbal Group.

411

412

As presented in Table 3, no statistically significant differences were observed among the mixed, visual, and verbal feedback groups across any of the pre-test performance measures ($p > .05$).

413

Although non-significant findings do not establish true equivalence between groups, they

414

indicate that no measurable baseline differences were detected prior to the intervention.

415

Consequently, the observed post-intervention changes are less likely to be attributable to

416

substantial pre-existing performance differences among the groups. Baseline comparison of

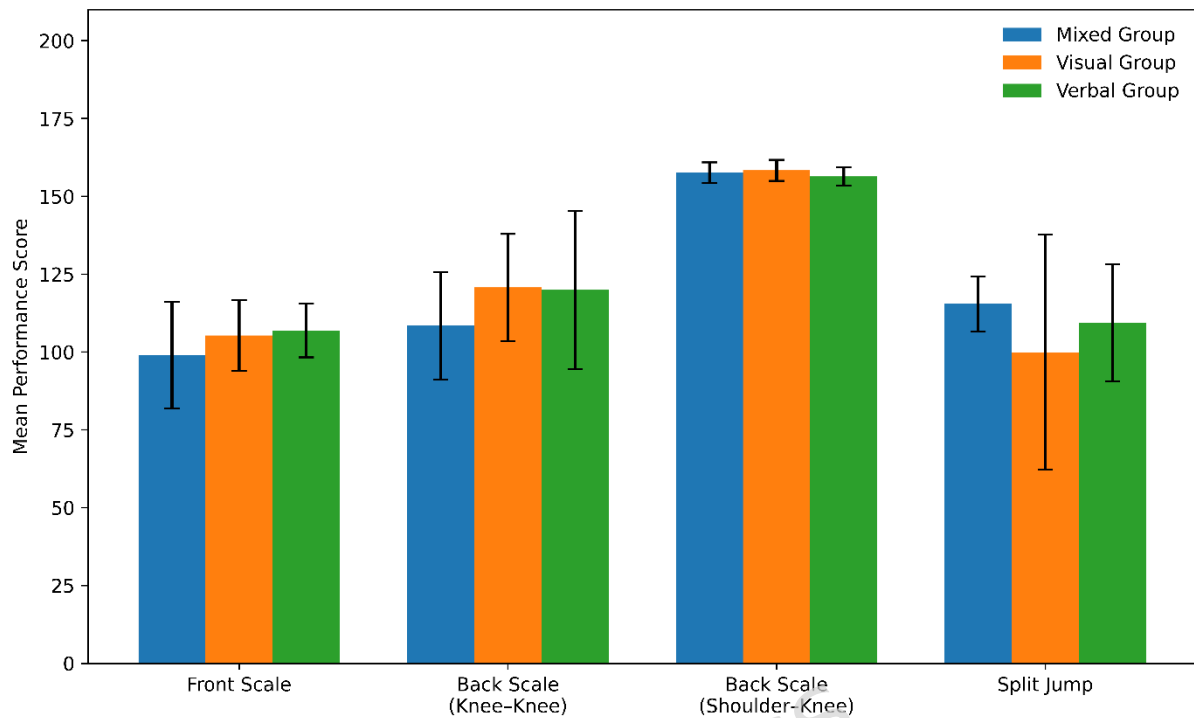
417

gymnastics performance scores across feedback groups is shown in Figure 6.

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Figure 6. Baseline comparison of gymnastics performance scores across feedback groups. Error bars represent standard deviations

425

Table 4. Mixed-design ANOVA results and Bonferroni comparisons for Front Scale performance.

427

Effect	F	p	Partial η^2	Significant Comparisons
Group	(2,57) = 6.872	.003*	.266	-
Time	(2,114) = 6.291	.003*	.100	-
Group \times Time	(4,114) = 1.680	.160	-	-

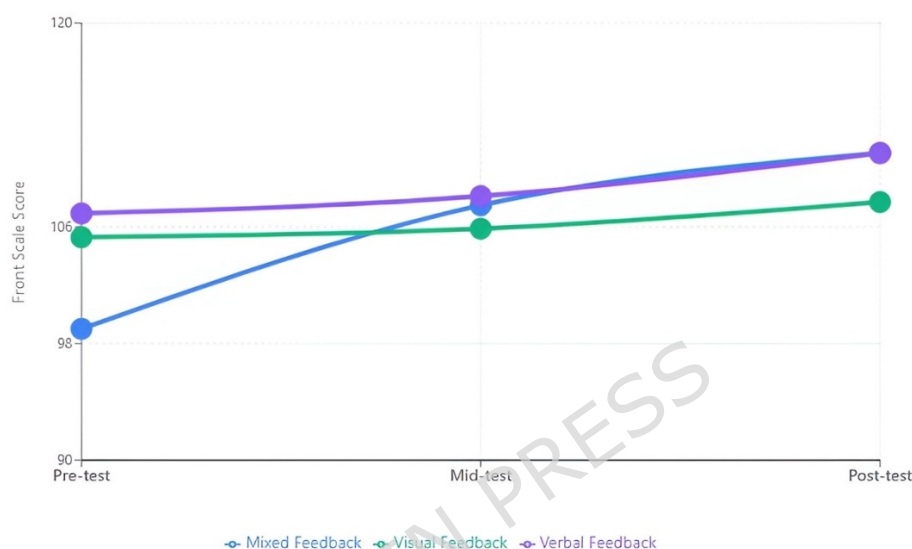
Group	Pre-test Mean \pm SD	Mid-test Mean \pm SD	Post-test Mean \pm SD	Bonferroni Comparisons
Mixed Feedback	99.01 \pm 17.16	107.49 \pm 11.09	111.08 \pm 5.96	Pre < Post*
Visual Feedback	105.29 \pm 11.40	105.88 \pm 12.17	107.71 \pm 22.23	No significant difference
Verbal Feedback	106.93 \pm 8.64	108.12 \pm 5.22	111.07 \pm 4.21	Pre < Post*, Mid < Post*

428

*p<0.05

429 Table 4 shows the mixed-design ANOVA results for Front Scale performance. Significant main
 430 effects of Group ($F(2,57) = 6.872$, $p = .003$, $\eta^2 = .266$) and Time ($F(2,114) = 6.291$, $p = .003$,
 431 $\eta^2 = .100$) were observed, indicating that Front Scale performance differed across feedback
 432 modalities and improved throughout the intervention period. However, the Group \times Time
 433 interaction was not statistically significant ($F(4,114) = 1.680$, $p = .160$), suggesting that the

434 pattern of improvement did not differ significantly among the feedback groups. Bonferroni post
 435 hoc comparisons revealed significant improvements from pre-test to post-test in the Mixed
 436 Feedback and Verbal Feedback groups. Additionally, the Verbal Feedback group demonstrated
 437 a significant improvement from mid-test to post-test, whereas no significant pairwise
 438 differences were observed in the Visual Feedback group. The comparison of pre-test, mid-test,
 439 and post-test scores for the front-scale element across groups is shown in Figure 7.



440

441

442 **Figure 7.** Comparison of front scale pre-test, mid-test, and post-test scores across groups

443

444 **Table 5.** Mixed-design ANOVA results and Bonferroni comparisons for Back Scale (Knee–
 445 Knee) performance.

Effect	F	p	Partial η^2	Significant Comparisons
Group	(2,57) = 20.299	.001	.517	-
Time	(2,114) = 13.652	.001	.193	-
Group \times Time	(4,114) = 3.375	.020	.106	Significant interaction
Group	Pre-test Mean \pm SD	Mid-test Mean \pm SD	Post-test Mean \pm SD	Bonferroni Comparisons
Mixed Feedback	108.49 \pm 17.27	121.50 \pm 12.52	130.61 \pm 7.66	Pre < Post*
Visual Feedback	120.74 \pm 17.20	123.51 \pm 15.87	127.30 \pm 7.25	No significant difference
Verbal Feedback	119.93 \pm 25.44	122.62 \pm 9.69	124.75 \pm 6.71	Pre < Post*, Mid < Post*

446

*p<0.05

447

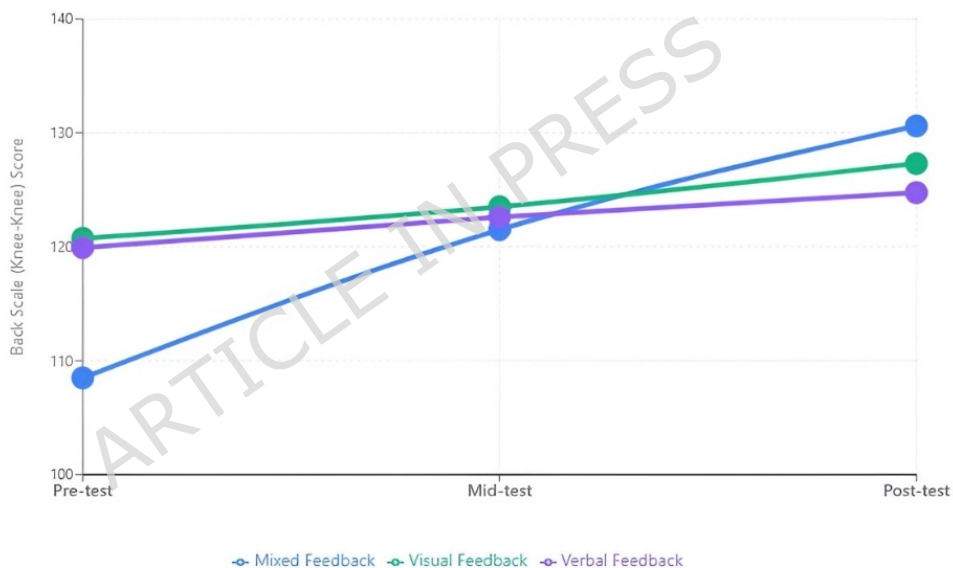
448 Table 5 shows the mixed-design ANOVA results for Back Scale (Knee–Knee) performance.

449 Significant main effects of Group (F (2,57) = 20.299, p < .001, η^2 = .517) and Time (F (2,114)

450 = 13.652, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .193$) were identified, indicating differences among feedback modalities
 451 and improvements over time. Furthermore, the significant Group \times Time interaction effect
 452 ($F(4,114) = 3.375$, $p = .020$, $\eta^2 = .106$) indicated that changes in performance varied according
 453 to the type of feedback received. Bonferroni post hoc analyses indicated significant
 454 improvements from pre-test to post-test in the Mixed Feedback group. Similarly, the Verbal
 455 Feedback group showed significant improvements between pre-test and post-test and between
 456 mid-test and post-test. Although the Visual Feedback group exhibited increases in mean scores
 457 over time, these changes were not statistically significant. The comparison of the pre-test, mid-
 458 test, and post-test scores on the Back Scale (Knee-Knee) across groups is shown in Figure 8.

459

460



461

462 **Figure 8.** Comparison of pre-test, mid-test, and post-test scores for the back scale (knee-knee)
 463 by group.

464

465 **Table 6.** Mixed-design ANOVA results and Bonferroni comparisons for Back Scale (Shoulder–
 466 Knee) performance.

467

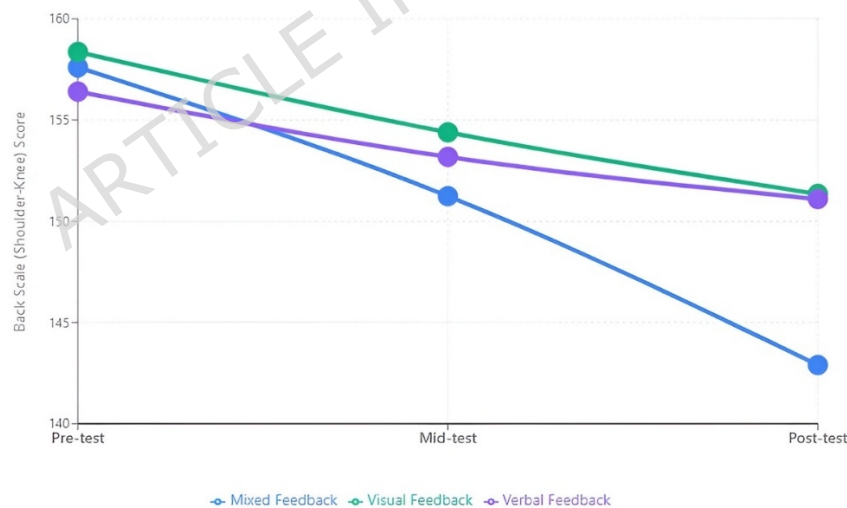
Effect	F	p	Partial η^2	Significant Comparisons
Group	(2,57) = 155.803	.001	.891	-
Time	(2,114) = 304.544	.001	.842	-
Group \times Time	(4,114) = 32.662	.001	.534	Significant interaction
Group	Pre-test Mean \pm SD	Mid-test Mean \pm SD	Post-test Mean \pm SD	Bonferroni Comparisons
Mixed Feedback	157.60 \pm 3.34	151.24 \pm 5.56	142.90 \pm 4.97	Pre > Mid*, Pre > Post*, Mid > Post*

Visual Feedback	158.36 ± 3.38	154.39 ± 4.29	151.35 ± 4.77	Pre > Mid*, Pre > Post*, Mid > Post*
Verbal Feedback	156.40 ± 2.91	153.18 ± 2.66	151.10 ± 2.69	Pre > Mid*, Pre > Post*, Mid > Post*

468 *p<0.05

469

470 Table 6 shows the mixed-design ANOVA results for Back Scale (Shoulder–Knee)
 471 performance. Significant main effects of Group ($F(2,57) = 155.803, p < .001, \eta^2 = .891$) and
 472 Time ($F(2,114) = 304.544, p < .001, \eta^2 = .842$) were observed. In addition, a significant Group
 473 \times Time interaction effect was found ($F(4,114) = 32.662, p < .001, \eta^2 = .534$), indicating that the
 474 magnitude of change differed among the feedback groups. Bonferroni post hoc comparisons
 475 demonstrated significant differences between all measurement occasions in all three groups
 476 (Pre-test > Mid-test > Post-test). Considering that lower shoulder–knee angle values indicate
 477 improved flexibility and technical execution, these findings demonstrate progressive
 478 performance improvements throughout the intervention period across all feedback modalities,
 479 with the largest improvement observed in the Mixed Feedback group. The comparison of the
 480 pre-test, mid-test, and post-test scores on the Back Scale (Shoulder-Knee) across groups is
 481 shown in Figure 9.



482

483 **Figure 9.** Comparison of pre-test, mid-test, and post-test scores for the back scale (shoulder-
 484 knee) by group.

485

486 **Table 7.** Mixed-design ANOVA results and Bonferroni comparisons for Split Jump
 487 performance.

Effect	F	p	Partial η^2	Significant Comparisons
Group	(2,57) = 28.921	.001	.604	-

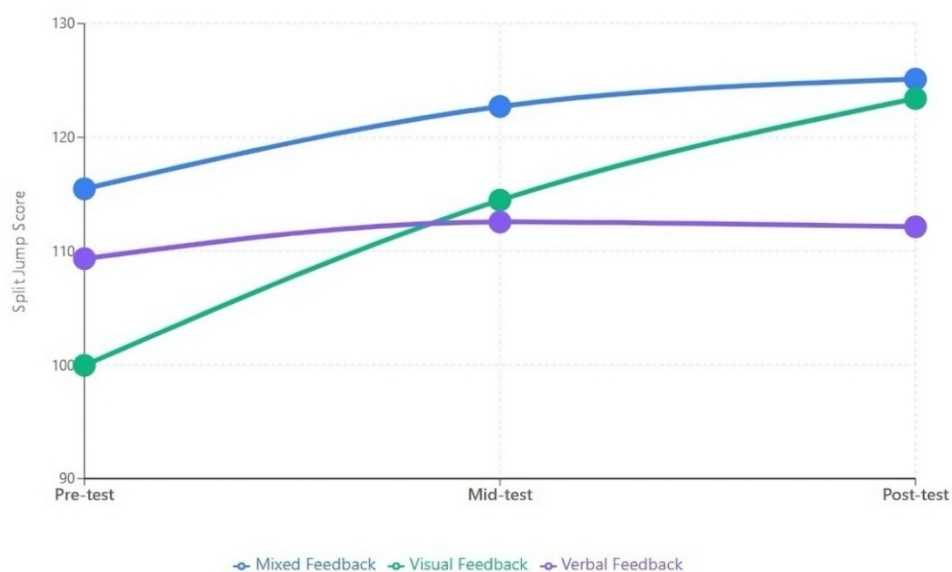
Time	(2,114) = 14.274	.001	.200	-
Group × Time	(4,114) = 3.510	.023	.110	Significant interaction
Group	Pre-test Mean ± SD	Mid-test Mean ± SD	Post-test Mean ± SD	Bonferroni Comparisons
Mixed Feedback	115.46 ± 8.84	122.70 ± 7.25	125.10 ± 8.18	Pre < Post*, Mid < Post*
Visual Feedback	99.95 ± 37.78	114.47 ± 15.24	123.40 ± 12.91	Pre < Post*, Mid < Post*
Verbal Feedback	109.33 ± 18.78	112.55 ± 11.98	112.13 ± 11.07	No significant difference

488 *p<0.05

489

490 Table 7 shows the mixed-design ANOVA results for Split Jump performance. Significant main
 491 effects of Group ($F(2,57) = 28.921$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .604$) and Time ($F(2,114) = 14.274$, $p < .001$,
 492 $\eta^2 = .200$) were identified, indicating differences among feedback modalities and overall
 493 improvements across the intervention period. Moreover, the significant Group × Time
 494 interaction effect ($F(4,114) = 3.510$, $p = .023$, $\eta^2 = .110$) indicated that the pattern of
 495 improvement differed across feedback types. Bonferroni post hoc analyses revealed significant
 496 improvements from pre-test to post-test and from mid-test to post-test in both the Mixed
 497 Feedback and Visual Feedback groups. In contrast, no statistically significant changes were
 498 observed in the Verbal Feedback group. These findings indicate that visual information, either
 499 alone or combined with verbal feedback, may be particularly beneficial for improving Split
 500 Jump performance. The comparison of the pre-test, mid-test, and post-test scores for the Split
 501 Jump across groups is shown in Figure 10.

502



503

504 **Figure 10.** Comparison of split jump scores across feedback groups: pre-test, mid-test, and
505 post-test results.
506
507

508

509 **DISCUSSION**

510 An important finding of the present study is that the effectiveness of feedback modalities varied
511 across gymnastics skills. Although mixed feedback generally produced the largest performance
512 improvements, its superiority was not consistently observed across all movement tasks. This
513 finding supports previous motor learning research suggesting that the effectiveness of
514 augmented feedback depends on task complexity, movement characteristics, and learner-related
515 factors rather than representing a universally superior instructional strategy (Sigrist et al., 2013;
516 Wulf & Lewthwaite, 2016). Consequently, the selection of feedback modalities should be
517 aligned with the specific motor demands of the skill being learned.

518 The present findings can be interpreted within the frameworks of Social Cognitive Theory and
519 the OPTIMAL theory of motor learning. Social Cognitive Theory proposes that individuals
520 acquire new motor behaviors through observation, imitation, and self-evaluative processes
521 (Bandura, 1997). In contrast, the OPTIMAL theory emphasizes the importance of attentional
522 focus and motivational processes in facilitating motor learning and performance (Wulf &
523 Lewthwaite, 2016). From this perspective, mixed feedback may offer a learning advantage by
524 combining observational information with corrective verbal guidance, thereby supporting both
525 movement understanding and performance refinement.

526 Regarding Front Scale performance, all groups improved throughout the intervention period.
527 However, the absence of a significant Group \times Time interaction indicates that none of the
528 feedback modalities produced statistically superior improvements. This finding suggests that
529 Front Scale acquisition may be relatively less dependent on the specific type of augmented
530 feedback. It may instead benefit from repeated practice opportunities regardless of feedback
531 modality. Such an interpretation is consistent with previous research indicating that simpler

532 balance-oriented skills may be acquired effectively through multiple instructional approaches
533 when learners are provided with sufficient practice and performance information (Moinuddin,
534 Goel, & Sethi, 2021).

535 In contrast, the findings for both Back Scale conditions suggest that feedback modality becomes
536 increasingly important as movement complexity increases. These skills require greater levels
537 of balance control, flexibility, body awareness, and postural regulation than Front Scale
538 performance. The superior outcomes observed in the mixed feedback condition may therefore
539 reflect the complementary benefits of visual and verbal information during complex motor skill
540 acquisition. Visual demonstrations allow learners to observe movement patterns and body
541 positioning, whereas verbal feedback facilitates error correction and reinforces critical technical
542 components. Similar mechanisms have been proposed in previous studies examining the
543 acquisition of technically demanding motor skills in gymnastics and physical education
544 contexts (Sigrist et al., 2013; Han et al., 2022; Mödinger et al., 2022; Petancevski et al., 2022).
545 The findings related to Split Jump performance further highlight the importance of visual
546 information during motor learning. Unlike static balance-based tasks, Split Jump requires
547 precise timing, dynamic coordination, and spatial awareness. Consequently, visual
548 demonstrations may provide learners with more accessible, immediately interpretable
549 information about movement execution than verbal explanations alone. The strong
550 improvements observed in both the visual and mixed feedback groups support previous
551 evidence indicating that video-based and observational feedback can enhance movement
552 timing, coordination, and technical execution in dynamic motor tasks (Mödinger, Woll, &
553 Wagner, 2021).

554 However, not all studies have reported clear advantages of visual or multimodal feedback.
555 Some investigations have suggested that the effectiveness of feedback may diminish when
556 learners become overly dependent on external information, potentially limiting the

557 development of intrinsic error-detection mechanisms (Wulf et al., 2010). Therefore, the
558 effectiveness of feedback strategies may depend not only on the modality employed but also on
559 task characteristics, learner experience, and instructional context.

560 The developmental characteristics of the participants may also help explain the effectiveness of
561 visual feedback observed in the present study. Children between 7 and 11 years of age
562 experience substantial development in perceptual-motor integration, observational learning,
563 and movement representation processes. During this period, learners frequently rely on visual
564 observation and imitation when acquiring new motor skills, whereas the processing of complex
565 verbal information is still developing (Gallahue et al., 2014; Bandura, 1997). Accordingly, the
566 strong performance gains observed in the visual and mixed feedback groups may partly reflect
567 age-related learning characteristics rather than feedback effects alone. This developmental
568 perspective provides an important explanation for why visual information appeared particularly
569 effective within the present sample.

570 Another noteworthy aspect of the findings is that verbal feedback alone generally produced
571 smaller performance improvements than visual or mixed feedback. Although verbal instruction
572 remains an important component of skill acquisition, young learners may struggle to translate
573 verbal descriptions into accurate movement patterns without accompanying visual information.
574 This interpretation is consistent with the developmental motor learning literature, which,
575 suggests that children often benefit more from concrete demonstrations than from abstract
576 verbal explanations when learning unfamiliar movement skills (Gallahue et al., 2014).

577 A major strength of the present study is the integration of objective kinematic analysis within a
578 randomized controlled experimental design. Whereas many previous studies have relied
579 primarily on subjective performance evaluations, the present study employed quantitative
580 kinematic measurements to assess movement quality across multiple gymnastics skills. This
581 approach provides a more objective evaluation of feedback effectiveness and contributes to the

582 growing body of research examining motor learning processes through biomechanical
583 assessment methods.

584 Overall, the findings suggest that the effectiveness of feedback modalities is skill-dependent
585 rather than universally applicable across all gymnastics elements. Mixed feedback appears
586 particularly beneficial for complex skills requiring substantial balance control, flexibility, and
587 movement coordination. In contrast, visual feedback may be especially effective for dynamic
588 skills that rely heavily on movement observation and spatial awareness. These findings support
589 the growing literature emphasizing the value of multimodal learning environments and provide
590 practical guidance for coaches and physical educators seeking to optimize motor skill
591 acquisition in young athletes.

592 **CONCLUSION**

593 The present findings indicate that all feedback modalities contributed to improvements in
594 gymnastics performance over time. However, the relative effectiveness of feedback varied
595 according to the skill being performed. Mixed feedback demonstrated advantages for the Back
596 Scale (Knee–Knee), Back Scale (Shoulder–Knee), and Split Jump, whereas no statistically
597 significant superiority was observed for Front Scale performance. These results suggest that
598 combining visual demonstrations with verbal instruction may be particularly beneficial for
599 complex gymnastics skills requiring high levels of coordination and body control. Coaches and
600 physical education practitioners should therefore consider selecting feedback strategies
601 according to the specific characteristics of the skill being taught rather than assuming that a
602 single feedback modality is universally superior.

603 **LIMITATIONS**

604 This study has several methodological limitations that should be considered when interpreting
605 the findings. First, the kinematic analyses were based on two-dimensional (2D) video

606 recordings, which inherently limit the assessment of movement outside the primary plane of
607 motion. Although 2D methods are practical and widely used, they are susceptible to errors
608 associated with out-of-plane motion, perspective distortion, and participant alignment (Munro
609 et al., 2012; McLean et al., 2005). Consequently, compared with three-dimensional (3D) motion
610 capture systems, 2D approaches provide lower measurement precision and less detailed
611 biomechanical information.

612 Second, despite standardized calibration procedures and fixed camera configurations, factors
613 such as camera alignment, lighting conditions, frame rate, and image resolution may have
614 affected landmark visibility and measurement accuracy. Even minor variations in these
615 parameters can introduce systematic or random error in video-based motion analysis (Windolf
616 et al., 2008). Furthermore, the measurement procedure relied on manual identification of
617 anatomical landmarks, which may introduce rater-dependent variability despite the
618 implementation of trained raters, blinding procedures, and a mixed-model reliability design
619 (Koo & Li, 2016; Lopes et al., 2018).

620 Third, the findings should be interpreted within the context of the study sample. The relatively
621 small sample size, the exclusive inclusion of female gymnasts, and recruitment from a single
622 training setting may limit the generalizability of the results to other populations, including male
623 athletes, different age groups, and athletes with varying levels of expertise. In addition,
624 individual characteristics such as physical activity level, anthropometric features, and motor
625 skill proficiency may have influenced the observed kinematic outcomes.

626 In addition, biological maturation was not directly assessed using indicators such as peak height
627 velocity (PHV) or Tanner stage. Although participants were recruited from a relatively narrow
628 age range and demonstrated comparable anthropometric characteristics, individual differences
629 in biological maturation may have influenced motor performance and responsiveness to
630 feedback interventions. Future studies should incorporate maturation-related measures to better

631 account for developmental variability during childhood and early adolescence.
632 Finally, the intervention period was limited to eight weeks and therefore may not fully reflect
633 the long-term retention of motor learning. Moreover, the study was conducted under relatively
634 controlled conditions that may not adequately represent the variability encountered in real-
635 world sport environments, such as fatigue, changing surfaces, competitive pressure, or sport-
636 specific demands. In addition, although objective kinematic measurements were employed, the
637 study focused on a relatively small sample of female gymnasts recruited from a single training
638 center. Therefore, caution should be exercised when generalizing the findings to male athletes,
639 different age groups, elite-level gymnasts, or athletes from different training contexts. Future
640 studies should employ larger and more diverse samples, utilize advanced motion-capture
641 technologies, and examine the long-term retention effects of different feedback modalities in
642 ecologically valid training settings.

643

644 **Theoretical Implications**

645 From a theoretical perspective, the present findings contribute to the motor learning literature
646 by reinforcing the effectiveness of multimodal augmented feedback in technical skill
647 acquisition. Consistent with prior evidence, multimodal feedback appears to be processed more
648 efficiently and retained longer than unimodal forms (Moinuddin, Goel & Sethi, 2021). The
649 superior performance observed in the mixed feedback condition in this study supports the
650 notion that combining visual and auditory inputs enhances the encoding, consolidation, and
651 retrieval of motor patterns.

652 These findings can also be interpreted within the framework of contemporary motor learning
653 theories. Specifically, the OPTIMAL theory of motor learning suggests that enhanced
654 expectancies, attentional focus, and motivational processes facilitate performance and learning
655 (Wulf & Lewthwaite, 2016). The superior outcomes observed in the mixed feedback condition

656 may therefore reflect the complementary influence of visual demonstrations and verbal
657 guidance on attentional engagement and movement execution. By simultaneously providing
658 observational and corrective information, mixed feedback may facilitate more efficient motor
659 learning processes than reliance on a single source of feedback.

660 Furthermore, the findings provide indirect support for Social Cognitive Theory by
661 demonstrating the potential value of observational learning processes during childhood motor
662 skill acquisition. The superior outcomes observed in the visual and mixed feedback conditions
663 suggest that learners may benefit from opportunities to observe movement models and compare
664 their own performance with external references, thereby strengthening self-evaluative and self-
665 regulatory learning processes (Bandura, 1997). This interpretation is particularly relevant in the
666 context of youth sport, where observational learning mechanisms play an important role in the
667 acquisition of new movement patterns and technical skills.

668 Overall, the findings support the growing consensus that motor learning is optimized when
669 multiple sensory channels are engaged and that feedback effectiveness is closely linked to its
670 ability to facilitate cognitive, motivational, and perceptual-motor integration. Consequently, the
671 present study extends existing theoretical perspectives by providing kinematic-based evidence
672 supporting the value of multimodal feedback during skill acquisition in young gymnasts.

673 **Practical Implications**

674 From a practical standpoint, the results provide clear and actionable guidance for coaches,
675 trainers, and physical education practitioners. The findings indicate that combining visual
676 demonstrations with verbal explanations is more effective than relying on a single feedback
677 modality, particularly for complex and technically demanding gymnastics skills. This supports
678 existing evidence from physical education research demonstrating that video-based visual
679 feedback is more effective than verbal-only feedback in improving motor performance
680 (Mödinger, Woll & Wagner, 2021).

681 Accordingly, coaches should prioritize structured feedback strategies that integrate modeling,
682 demonstration, and verbal instruction throughout the learning process. Combining video
683 playback with targeted verbal cues may help athletes identify movement errors more accurately,
684 improve body awareness, and accelerate technical refinement. Such approaches may be
685 especially valuable in gymnastics, where successful performance depends on precise body
686 positioning, timing, balance, flexibility, and coordination.

687 The present findings also suggest that feedback strategies should be adapted to the specific
688 characteristics of the skill being taught. While mixed feedback appears particularly beneficial
689 for skills requiring high levels of postural control and movement coordination, visual feedback
690 alone may represent an effective alternative for dynamic skills in which observational learning
691 plays a central role. In contrast, verbal feedback alone may be less effective for young learners
692 during the early stages of motor skill acquisition, when visual representations of movement are
693 especially important.

694 From a developmental perspective, the effectiveness of visual and mixed feedback observed in
695 the present study highlights the importance of age-appropriate instructional strategies. Given
696 that children between 7 and 11 years of age frequently rely on observation and imitation when
697 learning new motor skills, coaches may achieve better learning outcomes by providing frequent
698 opportunities for movement observation, video review, and guided performance analysis.

699 Finally, ongoing developments in digital technology offer new opportunities for enhancing
700 feedback delivery in sport settings. The integration of video analysis systems, mobile
701 applications, wearable sensors, and immersive feedback technologies may further improve
702 learning efficiency by providing immediate, individualized, and objective performance
703 information. Therefore, future training programs should consider combining technology-
704 assisted feedback systems with traditional coaching practices to maximize motor learning and
705 long-term skill development in young athletes.

706 Ethics approval and consent to participate

707 The Declaration of Helsinki was followed in the study, which was approved by the Erciyes
708 University Health Sciences Institute Social and Human Sciences Ethics Committee (Approval
709 No: 322; approval date: 29 August 2023). Since the study was conducted with trainee athletes
710 of the Talas Youth and Sports District Directorate affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and
711 Sports, institutional permission was obtained from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, General
712 Directorate of Education, Research, and Coordination (Decision No: 6372632; date: 12
713 December 2023). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants, and for
714 participants under 18, it was additionally obtained from their parents or legal guardians prior to
715 participation.

716 Consent for Publication

717 Written informed consent for publication was obtained from the participants shown in Figures
718 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as from their parents or legal guardians.

719 Availability of data and material

720 The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding
721 author on reasonable request.

722 Competing Interests

723 We have no competing interests.

724 Funding Statement

725 This research received no external funding.

726 Author Contributions

727 For Conceptualization, MBT, OP, and MY; methodology, VSG and DBAG; software, OP;
728 validation, MS, MBT, and DBAG; formal analysis, VSG; investigation, MBT and OP;
729 resources, MY; data curation, MBT; writing original draft preparation, VSG, and MS; writing
730 review and editing, OP and MS; visualization, VSG; supervision, MY and OP; project

731 administration, MBT; all authors have read and agreed to the published version of the
732 manuscript.

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