



Technology Education considering children's needs

Evidence-based development of Inclusive materials for learning with robots
at primary level

Franz Schröer & Claudia Tenberge

1st November 2023

Presentation at The 40th Pupils' Attitudes Towards Technology Conference





,Sachunterricht'

- Primary school subject in Germany
- usual translation into *interdisciplinary science and social studies* (integrates several perspectives)
- Translation does not fit multiperspective approach (Schröer & Tenberge 2023)

→ *Usage of German term ,Sachunterricht'*

Technology Education

- Technology as a realm between human and nature (artifacts, problems, processes, values etc.) (Mitcham 1994; de Vries 2018)
- One of multiple perspectives of learning about living environment
- Internationally common label *Technology Education*
 - *Usage of technology education due to connectability*

Learning robots

- (Ever) faster development and growing complexity of technological innovations (Schröer und Tenberge 2021)
- Robots for teaching and learning
- Serve as a artifact, medium or tool for technological learning (Janicki & Tenberge 2022)

→ *Bluebots as an example unit*



Inclusive Education

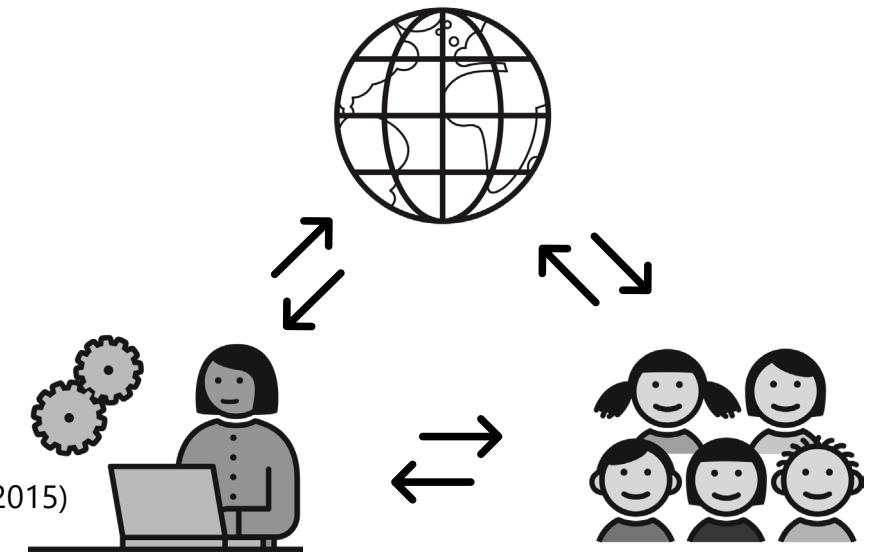
- Minimization of barriers for **all** pupils (Booth & Ainscow 2016)
 - not reduced to special needs education
 - Mainly pupils at risk for marginalisation
 - Focus on individual potentials and needs (e.g. Pech et al. 2019)
- *Definition focussed on heterogeneity of individuals* (Grosche 2015)



Theoretical Framework - ,Sachunterricht' and Technology Education

Orientation towards pupils prerequisites well established

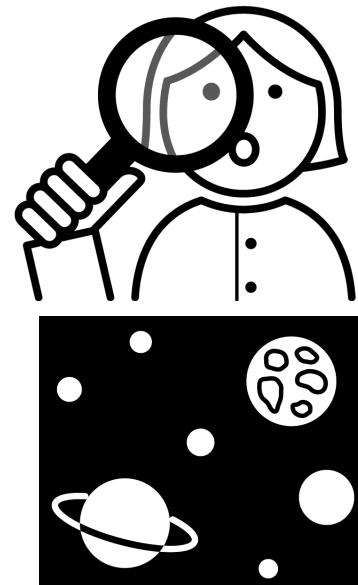
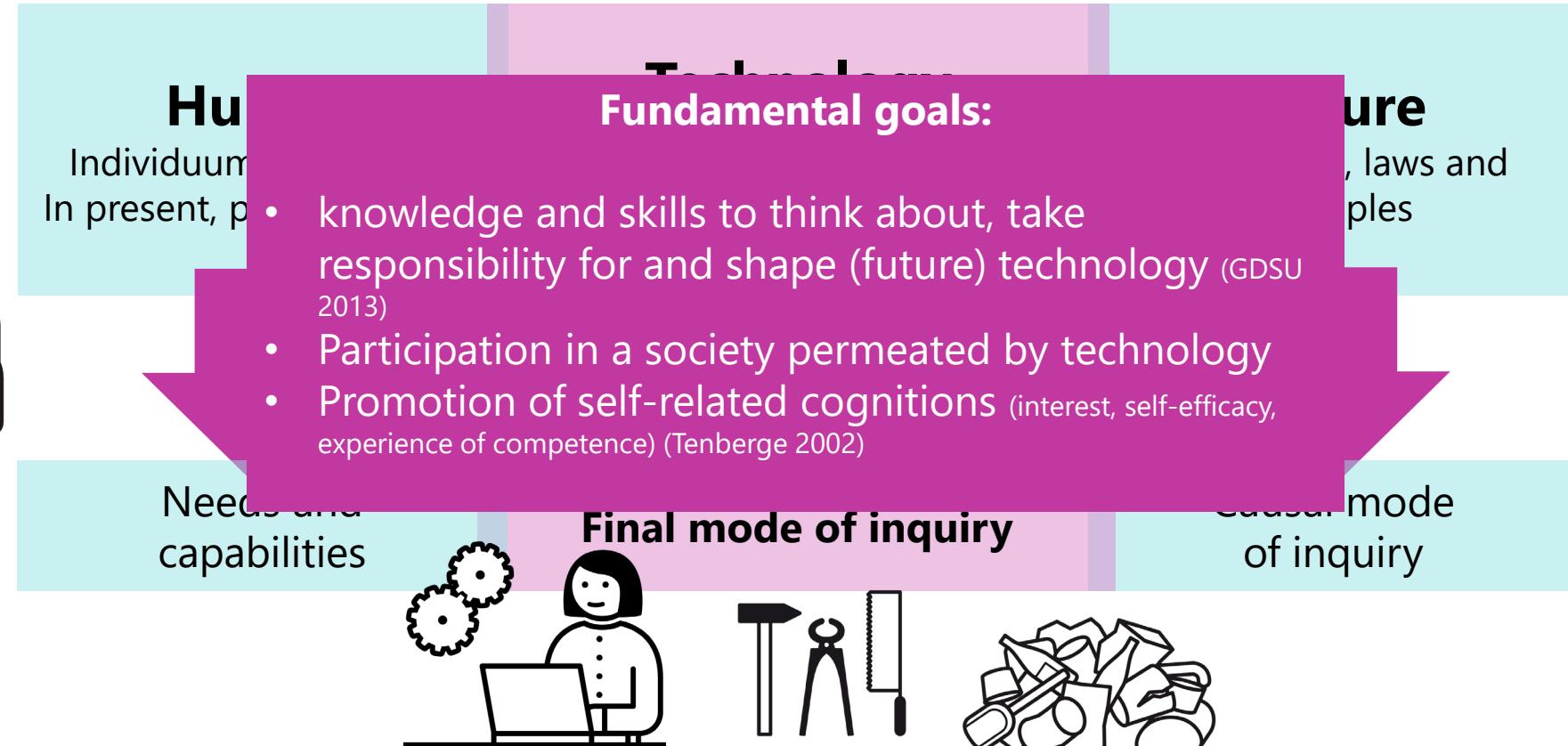
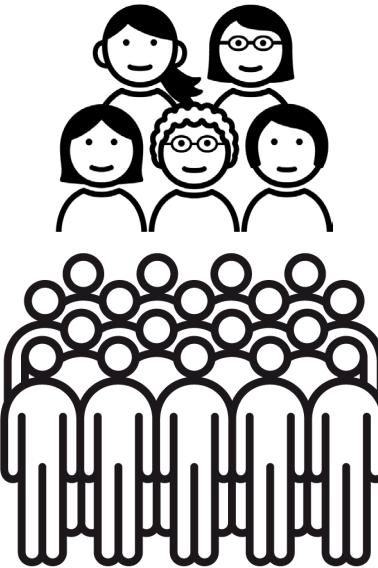
- Fundamental categories of designing teaching and learning
 - child (interests, preconceptions, ideas, questions, needs etc.; Fölling Albers 2015)
 - Living environment (relevant phenomena, artifacts, values etc.; Nießeler 2015)
 - (scientific) domain/realm (knowledge, methods, processes of inquiry; Köhnlein 2015)





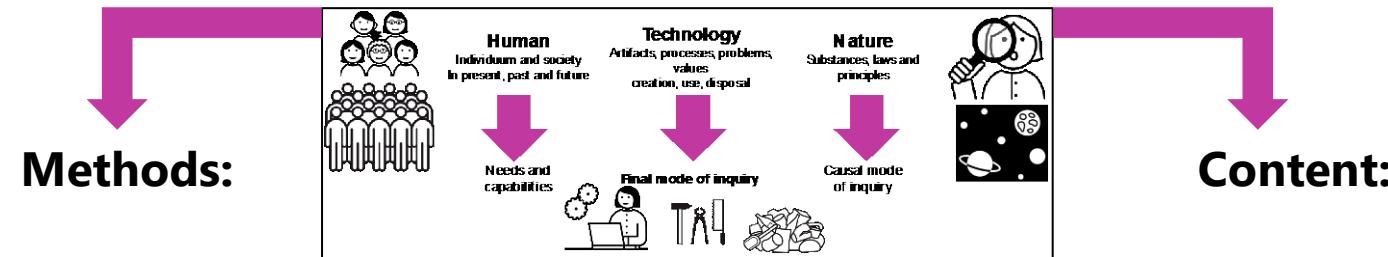
'Sachunterricht' and Technology Education in German primary schools

Technology as a perspective to learning between human and nature





Theoretical Framework – methodical and content orientation

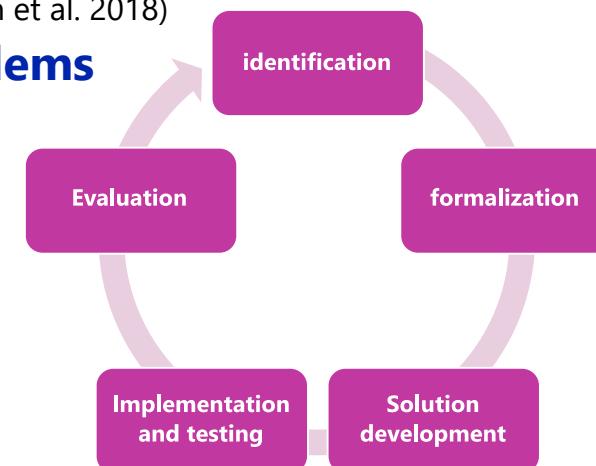


- Problem-orientation scaffolds cognitive activity
Planning, construction, use, evaluation

→ **technological problemsolving**

(Mammes/Zolg 2015, Ahlgrimm et al. 2018)

= **learn to solve problems**



- Problems as a starting point to learning
 - to real problem-based tasks
 - learning in real contexts (Tenberge 2002, Beinbrech 2015)
- = **learning with problems**





Problem outline - All means all (UNESCO 2008)

Research on Inclusive Education in Germany

- controversially discussed (Grosche 2015) but established topic in educational research (Dexel 2022)
- Growing recognition especially in school subject related domains of research (ibid.)
- Increasing number of publications in 'Sachunterricht' related research (Pech et al. 2019)

Yet still ...

... varying degrees of focus on children affected by marginalisation (Grosche 2015)

... varying characteristics of marginalised addressed (gender, race, cultural background, socioeconomical background, (dis-)ability etc.) (ibid.)

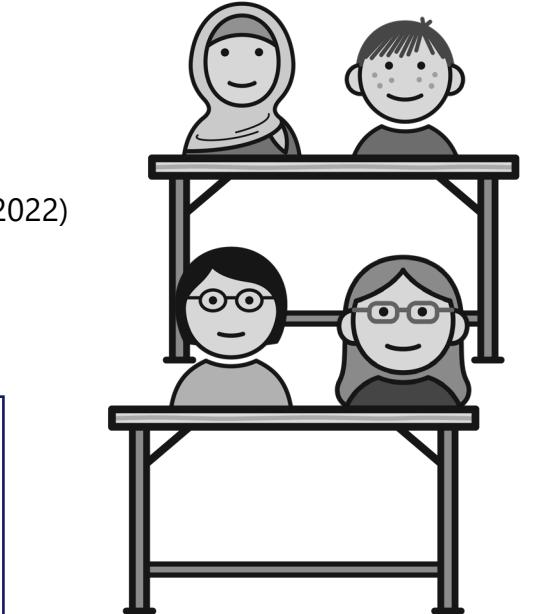
→ *Broad variety of definitions and characteristics demand definition in empirical study contexts (Grosche 2015)*

- As transformation process towards equal participation in education (e.g. Feuser 2011)
- process addressing and responding to the needs of all learners (UNESCO 2005)

Pupils (pre-)determined attributes and characteristics

Focus shift

Altered recognition of Pupils individual potentials and needs

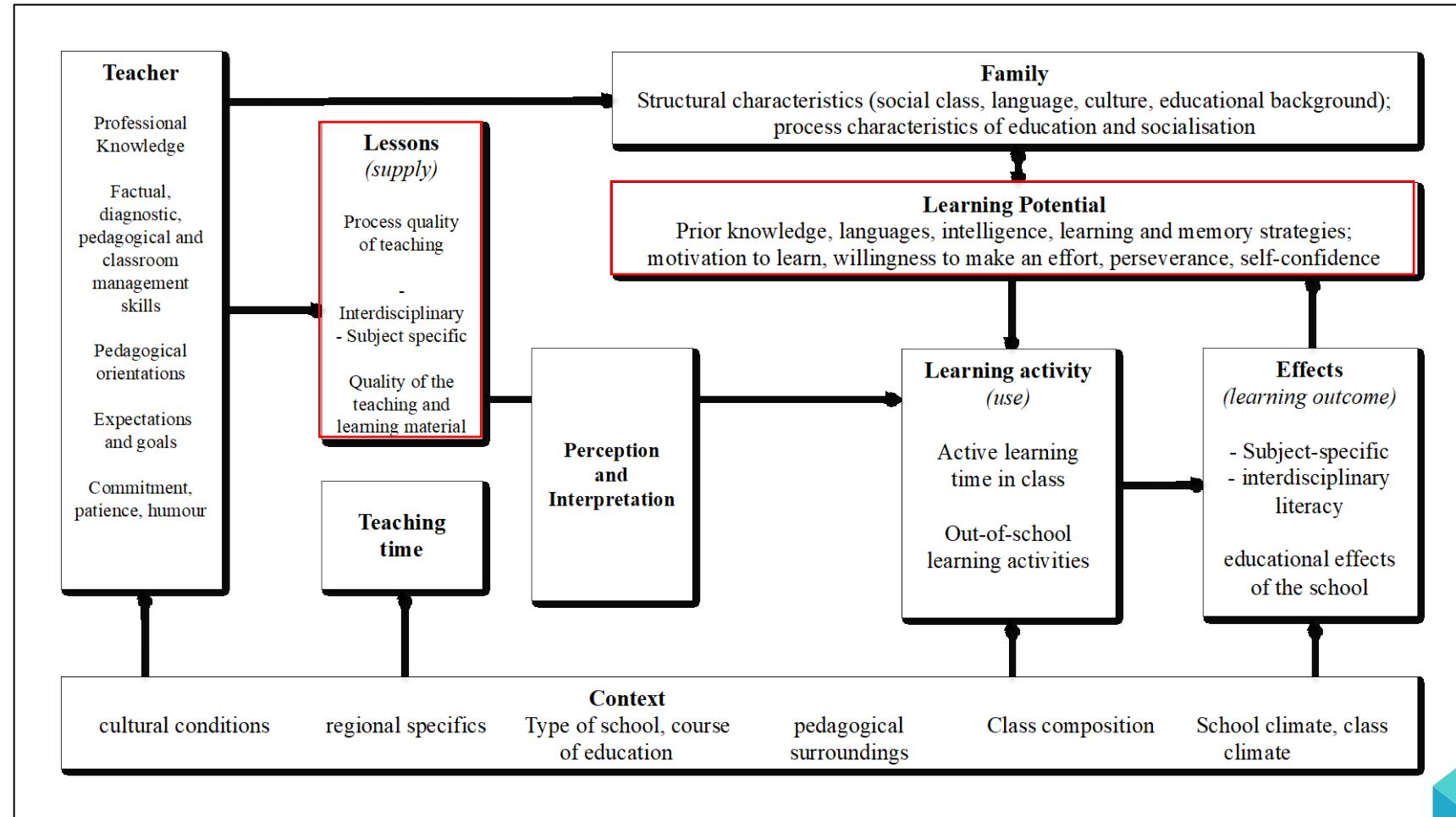




Constructivist approach to learning - supply and use

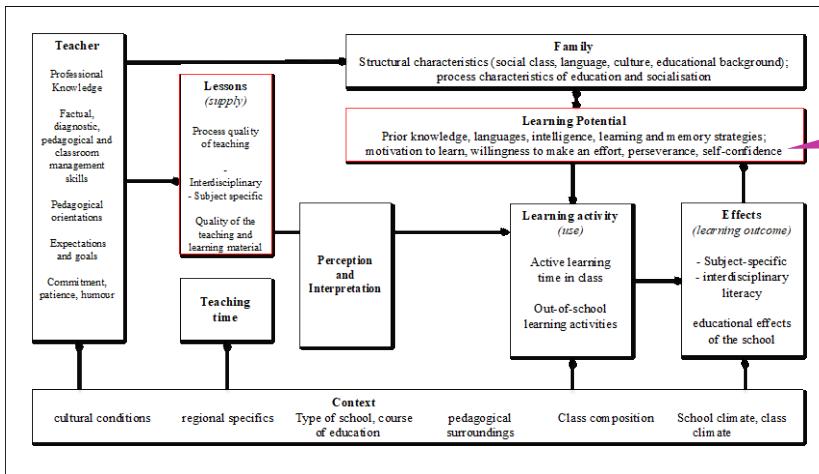
- moderate-constructivist understanding of teaching and learning (Möller 2001)
- use of learning opportunities by all pupils with their individual learning potential (Hardy et al., 2011; Simon, 2015)
- adaptive teaching reacting to diverse learning potentials

→ needs as part of a learning potential





Constructivist approach to learning - supply and use



What is a need?

...psychological determinants of behaviour (Maslow 1943)

...used to causally reconstruct motivated or amotivated behavior (Deci & Ryan 1993; Nuttin 1994)

...tends to intensify or expand under favourable conditions (Krapp 2012)

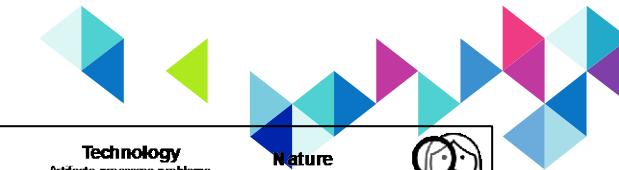
→ heuristic assumption: **Needs differ among pupils and within pupils according to certain environments**

Basic psychological needs

autonomy

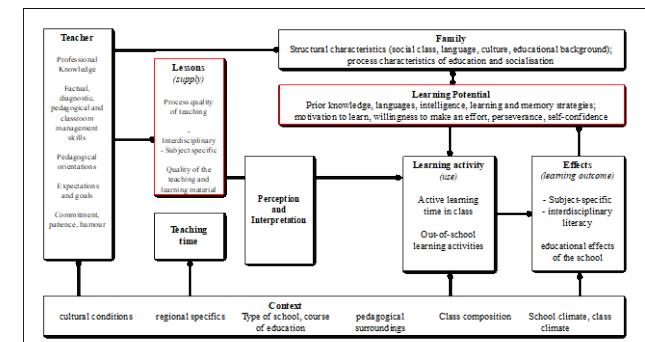
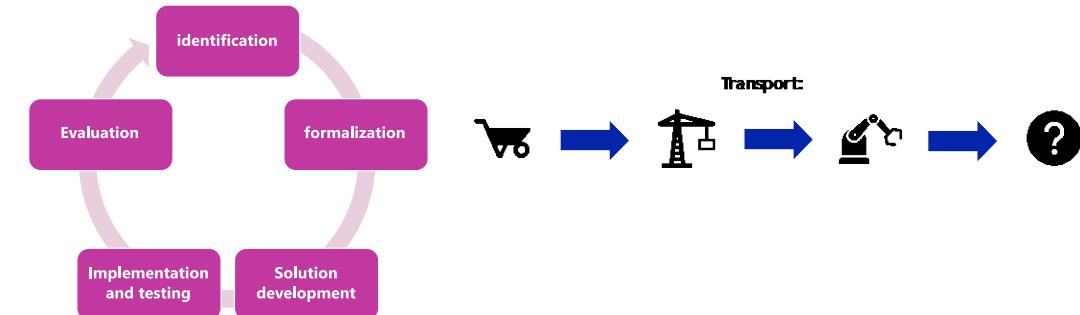
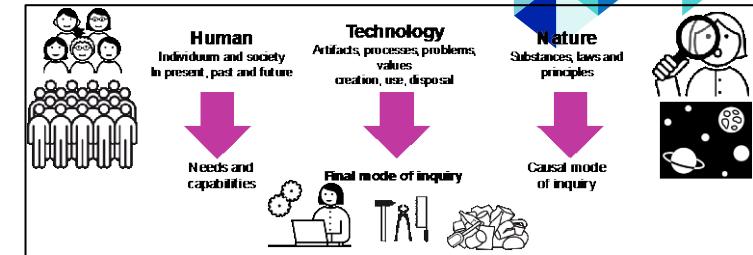
competence

social relatedness



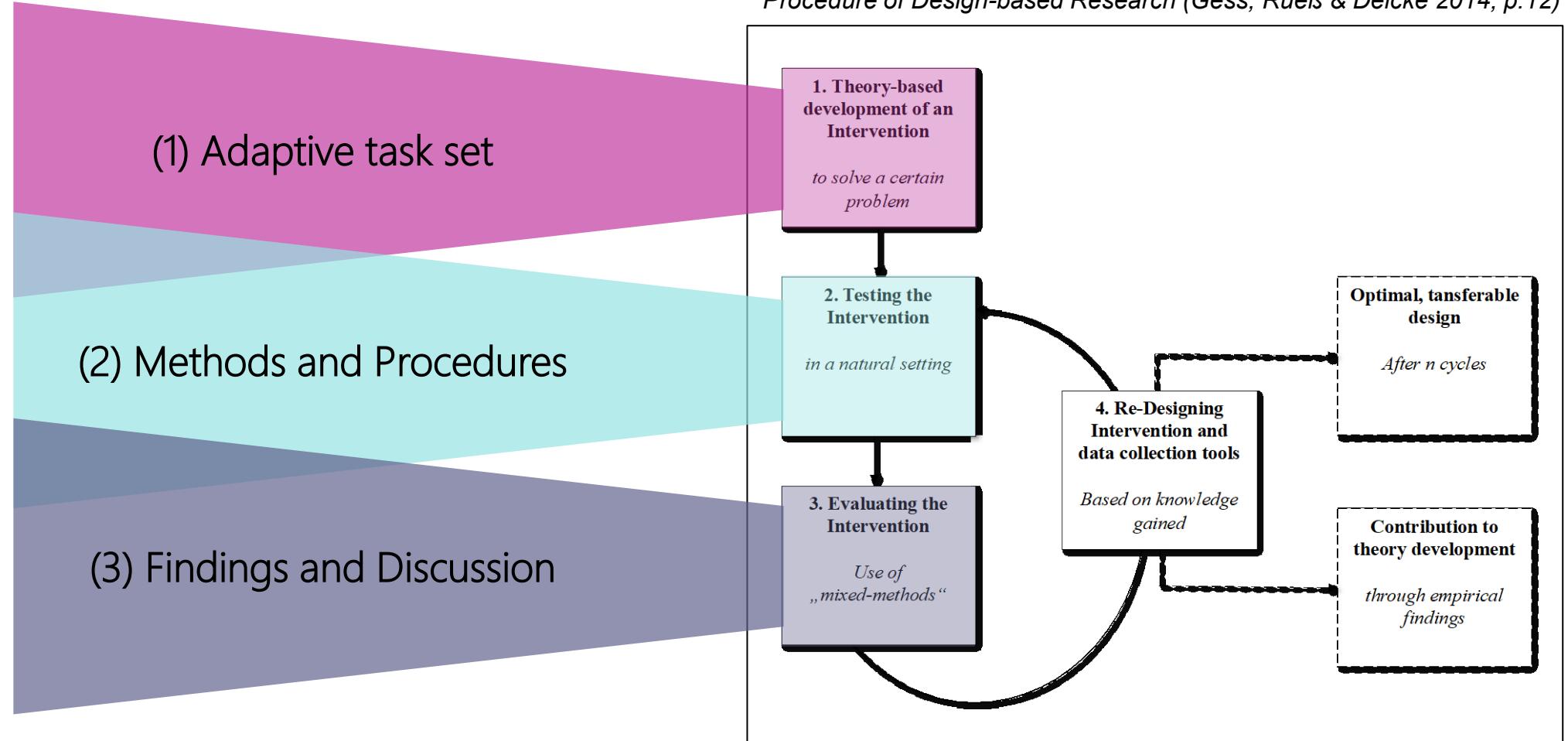
Research questions

- (i) How can an adaptive set of tasks be designed that can take diverse expressions of pupils' needs for autonomy, social relatedness, and competence into account?
- (ii) What are the learning outcomes in terms of problem-solving skills and self-related cognitions (interest, self-efficacy, experience of competence) of lessons adapted based on the tasks designed?





Methods and Procedures

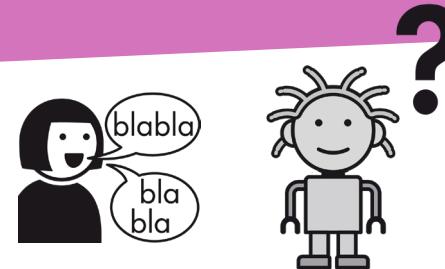




*Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess,
Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)*

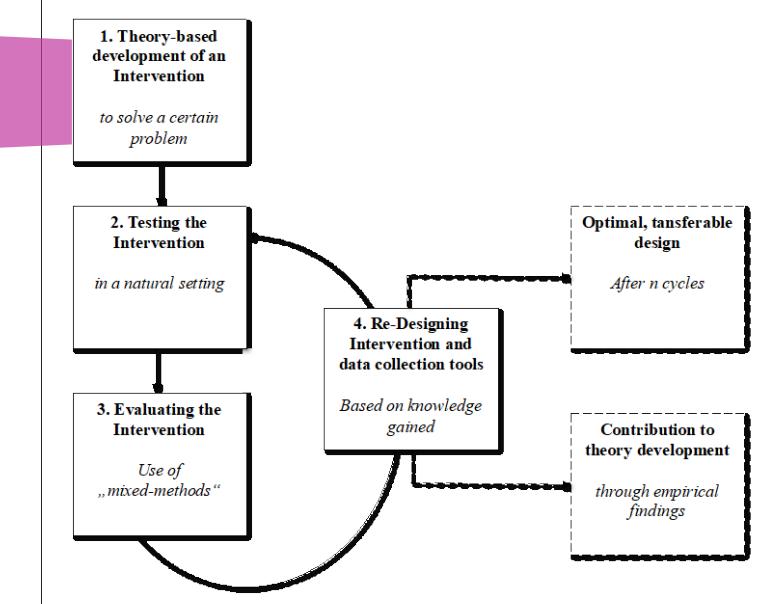
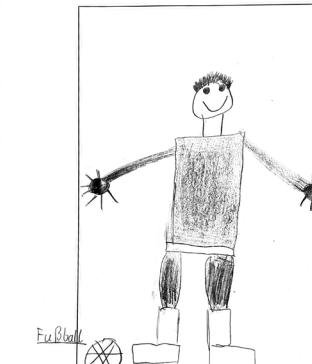
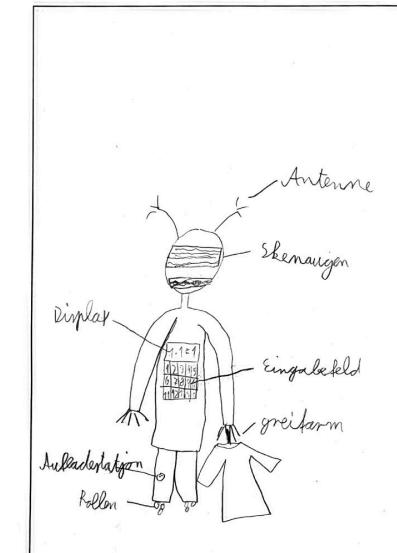
(1) Adaptive task set – transformative unplugged tasks

1) human robot



2) Draw and describe your own robot

3) Naming useful components of a robot

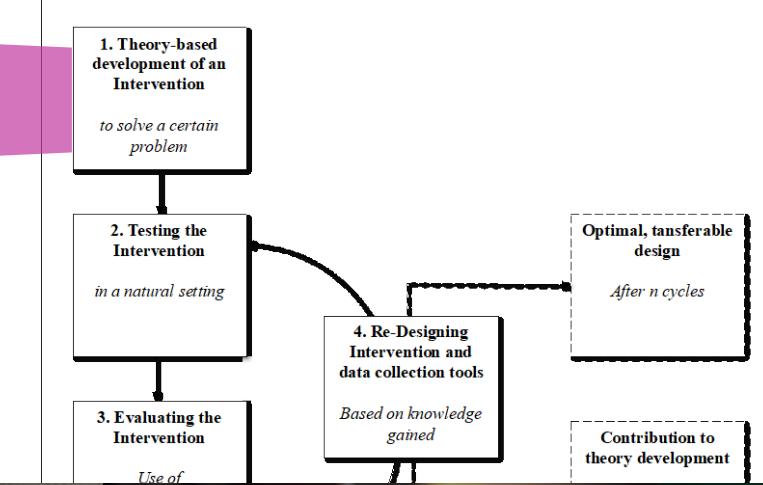
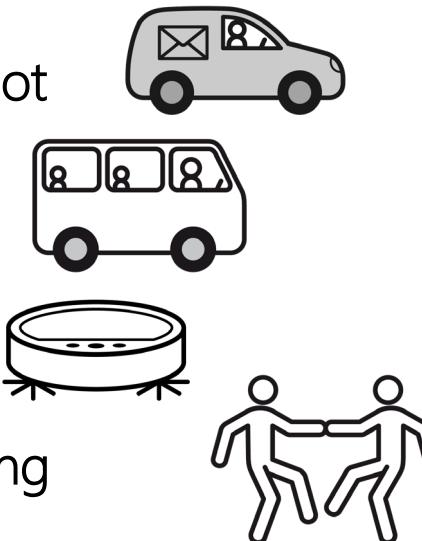




*Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess,
Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)*

(1) Adaptive task set – transmissive plugged tasks

- 1) Postal service robot
- 2) School bus robot
- 3) Cleansing robot
- 4) Two robots dancing
- 5) A robot doing whatever





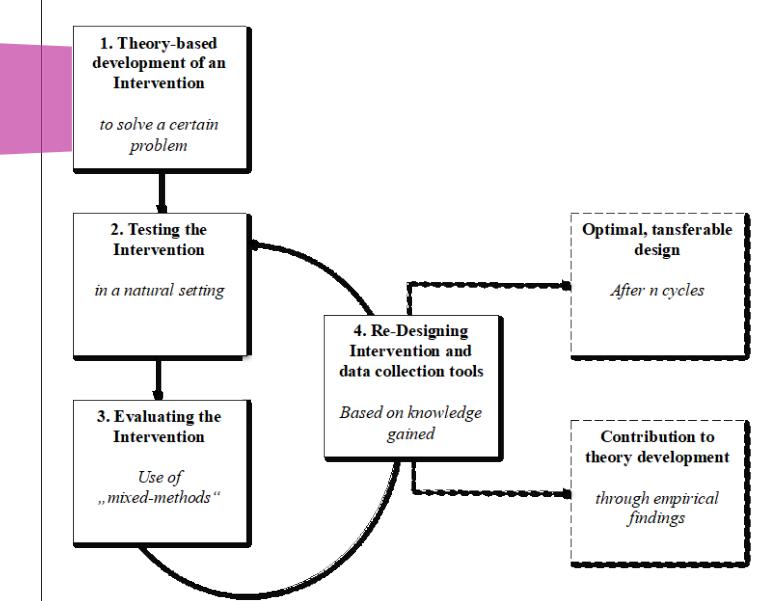
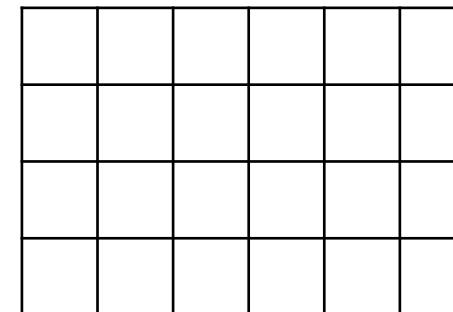
*Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess,
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(1) Adaptive task set – transmissive plugged tasks

1) Postal service robot



- Varying degrees of freedom
- Multiple levels of difficulty



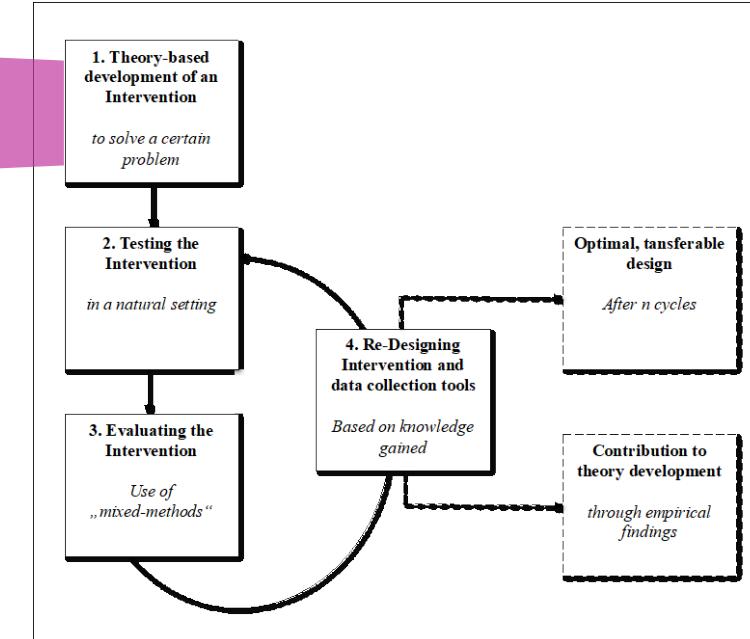
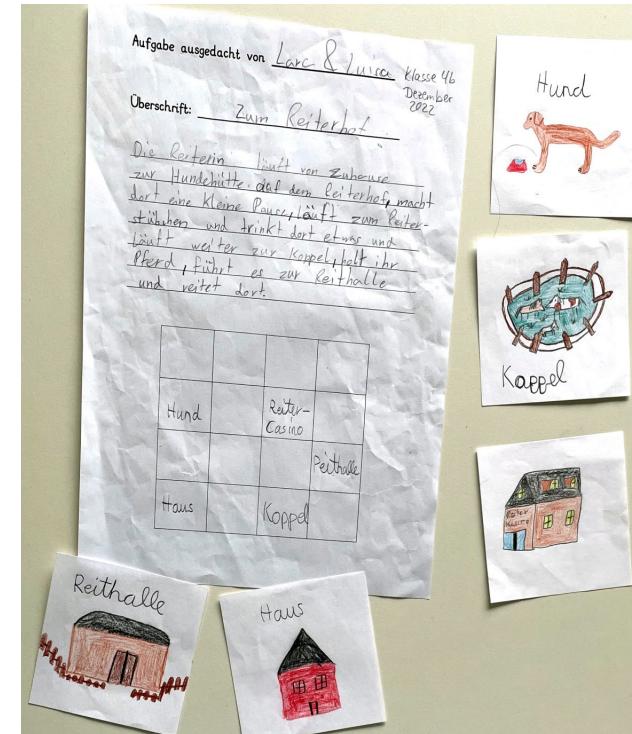
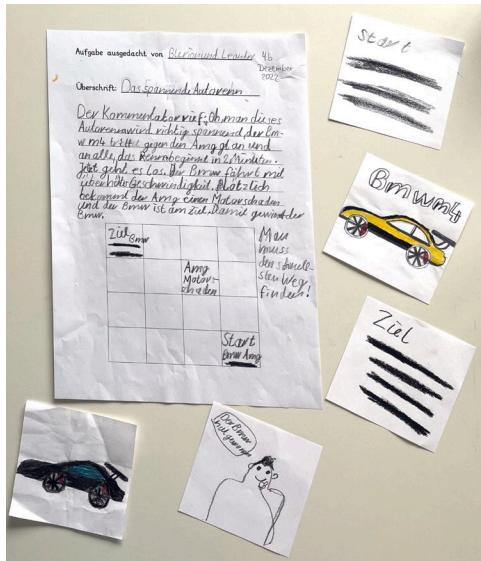


An adaptive set of tasks – transmissive plugged tasks

Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess, Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)

(1) Adaptive task set – transmissive plugged tasks

5) A robot doing whatever



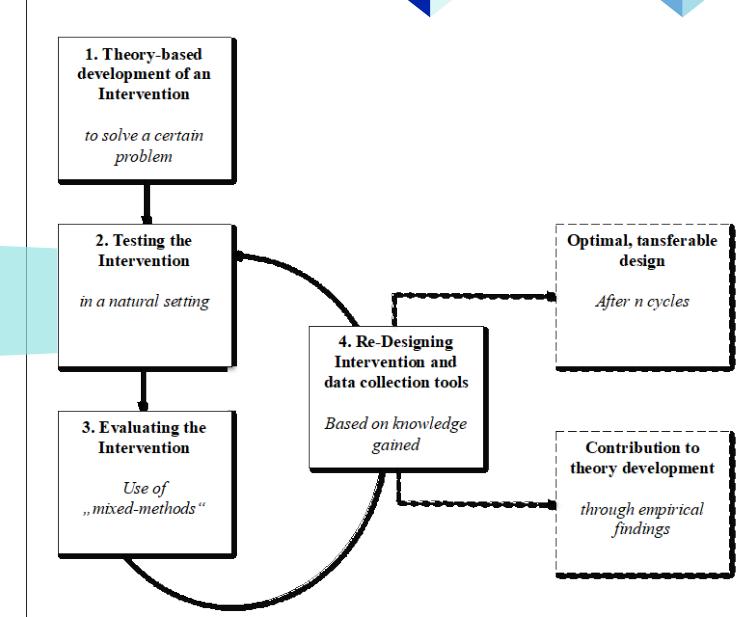


(2) Methods and Procedures

- 1st cycle with a seminar course of pre-service teachers in 2022
- Test of adapted learning environment with 3 primary school classes
(n=71) – second grade

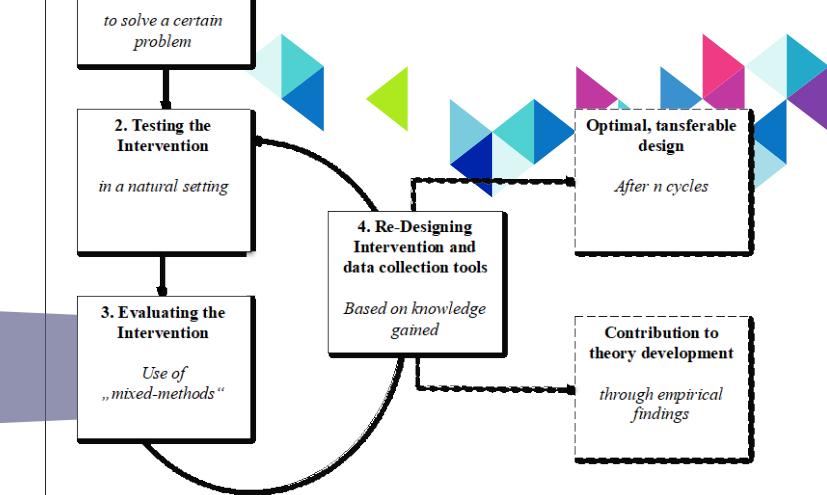
Evaluation datasets

- Problem solving skills (pre to post)
- Self-related cognitions (situational interest, self-efficacy, experience of competence (Bohrmann 2017)
- Few smaller, not systematically raised datasets (e.g. drawings)



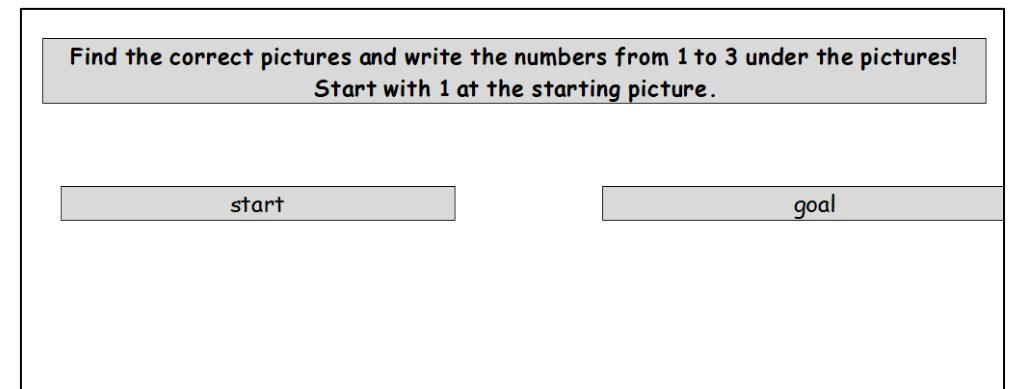
Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess, Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)

(3) Findings and Discussion

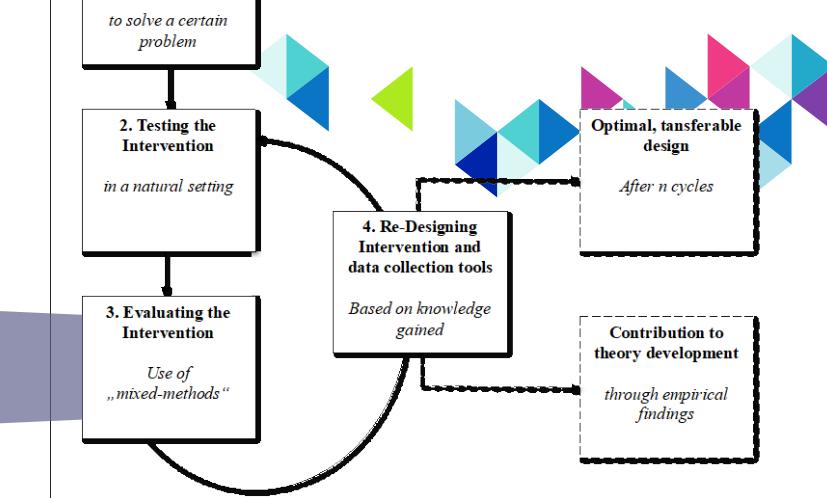


Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess, Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)

	Pretest (0-5)	Posttest (0-5)
Problemsolving skills Tower of London test 5 tasks with growing complexity	$M = 2.127$ $SD = 1.74$ $\alpha = .762$	$M = 2.953$ $SD = 1.98$ $\alpha = .870$



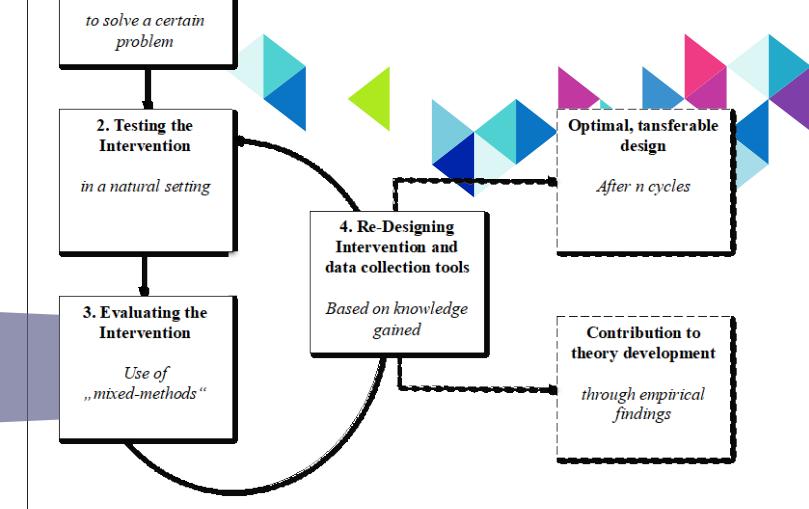
(3) Findings and Discussion



Variable (number of Items)	Pre-Test Likert scale 1-4	Post-Test Likert scale 1-4	Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess, Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)
Situational interest (5)	M = 3.067 SD = .527 $\alpha = .636$	M = 3.569 SD = .390 $\alpha = .683$	"I really want to learn more about problemsolving with robots."
Self-efficacy (5)	M = 2.963 SD = .726 $\alpha = .771$	M = 2.991 SD = .646 $\alpha = .737$	"I feel confident to answer difficult questions about robots."
Experience of competence (7)	M = 3,179 SD = .732 $\alpha = .812$	M = 3.396 SD = .448 $\alpha = .822$	"I know a lot about robots."

(3) Findings and Discussion

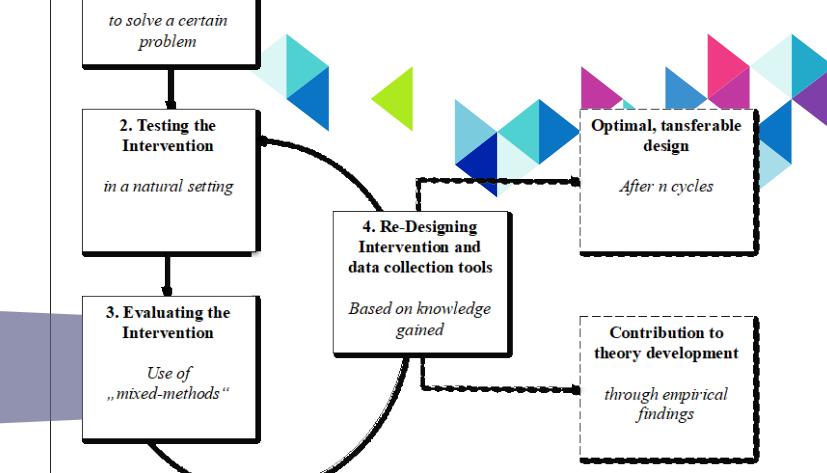
- comparative mean value from Bohrmann's (2017) pretest (1.6502)
- post-test mean value differs from the comparative value on a highly significant level.
- lessons are associated with a mean effect on problem-solving ability (Coh.-d = .658)



Procedure of Design-based Research (Gess, Rueß & Deicke 2014, p.12)

Variable	T	df	bilateral p
Problemsolving (pretest)	2,308	70	.024
Problemsolving (posttest)	5.266	63	<.001

(3) Findings and Discussion



Situational interest

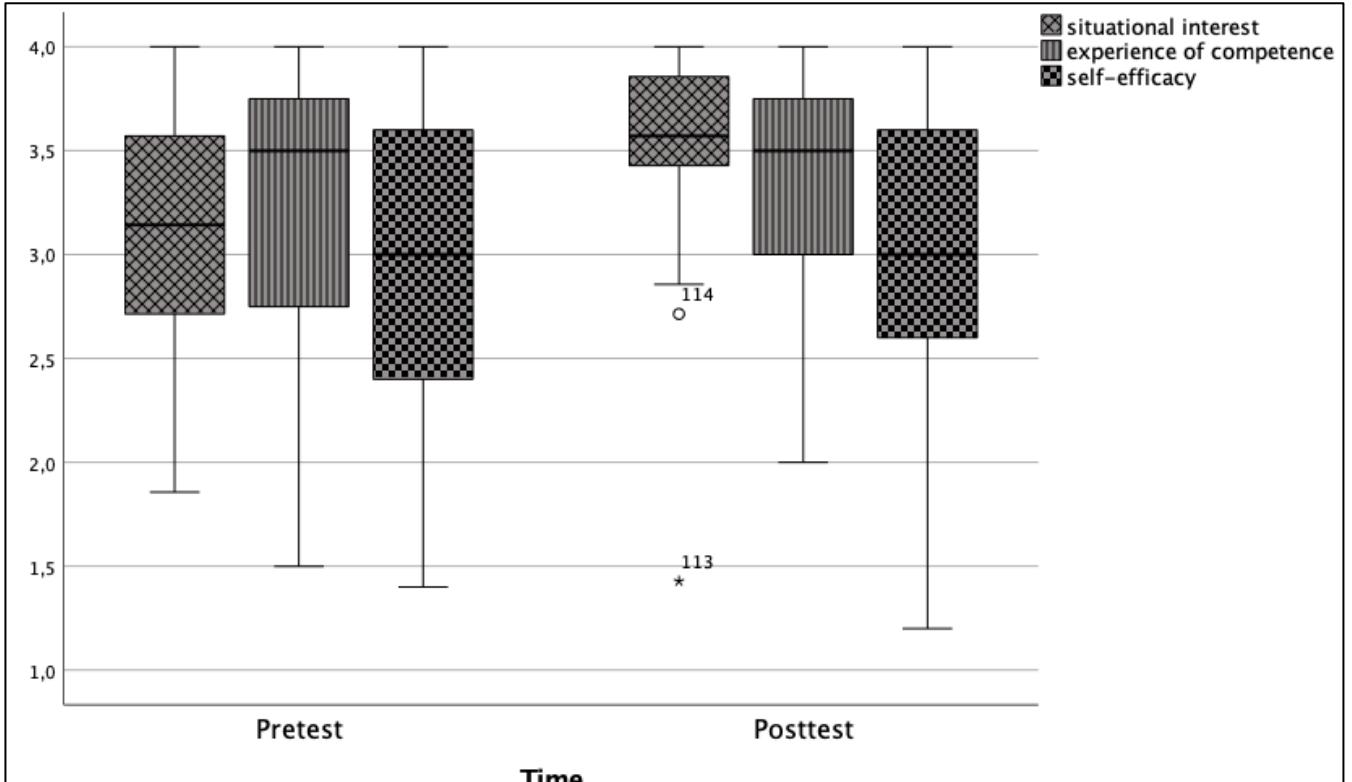
- pupils with low pre-test value seem to benefit as bottom quartile decreases

Experience of competence

- pupils with low pre-test value seem to benefit as bottom quartile decreases

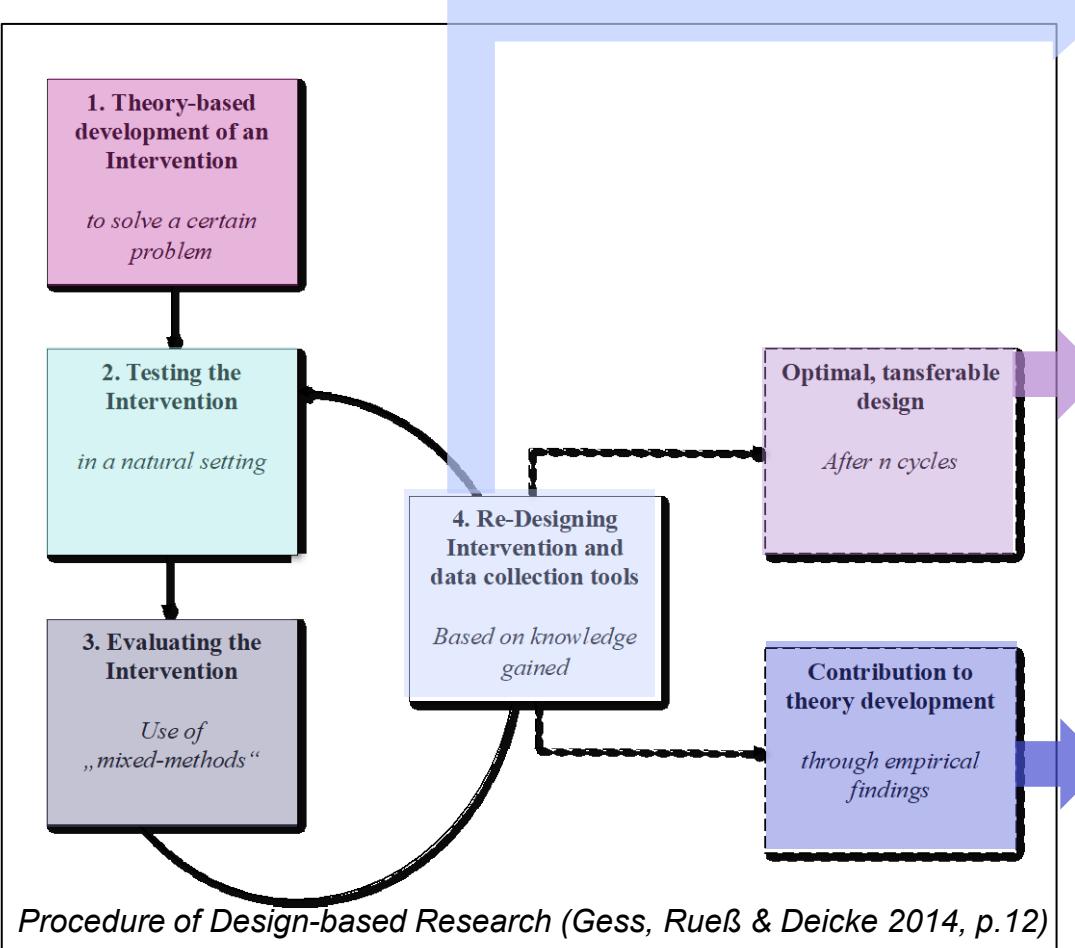
Self-efficacy

- No significant changes visible





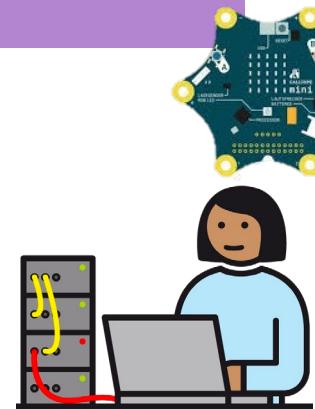
Outlook



- Implementation of further task formats to choose from for pupils and teachers (Bachelor Thesis Marena Meier)
- Find out more about how to professionalize (pre-service) teachers for adaptive teaching (Master Thesis Clara Stuckenbröker)

- Implementation to higher primary and lower secondary education using calliope mini (Seminar course this semester)
- Find out more about the characteristics of pupils needs (My PhD project)

- further empirically based knowledge about pupils needs at primary level (My PhD project)
- Contribution to hands-on and minds-on learning in a digital society (Tenberge et al. in print)





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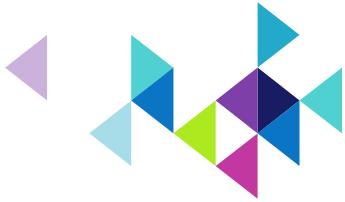
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Thank you for listening and participating!

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