# BARE YOUR SOLE

Lawrence Biscontini, MA Mindful Movement Specialist Mission: "wellness without walls"

# I. INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Evolution and History
- 2. Functional Purpose
- 3. Contraindications and Special Populations
- 4. Health & Safety
- 5. Resources/Equipment: marbles, lines/tape,
- Workshop/Masterclass
  Theme

# **II. THEORY**

- 8. Finding one's stronger foot: 9. Natural, balancing ankle movement is called
- Tvian
- 10. Shoes give: artificial, passive, external stabilization over natural, active, internal stabilization of bare feet
- 11. Barefoot walking/running and Vibram Five Finger Shoe
- 12. Morton's Toe
- 13. Quadrupeds to bipeds in history; evolved in us as in kangaroos, and occurred in hominoids 5 million years ago
  - a. Pros to Bipedalism: efficiency for smaller size, frees hands to carry things, see over tall vegetation for hunting, much more efficient cooling of the core
  - b. Cons to Bipedalism: less capable climbers because of center of gravity and loss of 2 limbs, slower and less agile than quadrupeds, increased propensity to fall

c. **ÚNIQUE** to bipdal primates are long legs, S-shaped spinal column, wide pelvis separating legs on purpose, parallel big toe lined up with rest of toes (vs. other primates whose big toe does separate things), thighs that angle inward towards the knees to assist in balance, and lateral & transverse arches built into the foot so we aren't flat footed but supported by 3 main points of contact (triad) in a stable, tripod-like structure for walking

# 15. Quick Kinesiology

Ankle flexion: Dorsiflexion Inversion/Supination (pes cavus)

Ankle flexion: Plantarflexion Eversion/Pronation (pes planus)

Whatever foot does, leg does opposite Weak feet can yield to \_\_\_\_\_\_ including weak pelvic floor Peroneals

#### 16. Anchoring Stability:

- a. Ankle Peroneals and Foot Muscles themselves b. trilogy: Pelvic Floor Muscles, Gluetals, and Transverse Abdominus c. The tongue

- 17. Looking at clients' shoes (heels) for:
- 18. Balance and gait require ankle training, plus:
- 19. In-Line Walking in fraining is functional because:
- 20. International: Greek history: Running as Fast as Phidippedes and "marathons." Chinese history: parks in China with cobblestones









# **III. PRACTICAL:**

3 Components of any Balance Experience: 1. strength 2.balance/proprioceptive sensorial training. 3.flexibility & mobility, and Slower Foot Strike/Galt is a progression of exercise and can increase propensity to fall

#### 1. SEATED:

Ankle/Foot WarmUps with rotation: flexibility and mobility in horizontal a. plane

b. Ankle/Foot WarmUps with heel and toe lifts: strength in sagittal plane

Ankle/Foot WarmUps with eversion and inversion: strength in the frontal с. plane with minimal knee movement

Toe "fans" picking up and placing down toes individually as appropriate d.

"Marble Grabs" with the toes: picking up, putting down, putting between e. toes, and massaging the bottom of the feet

Self-massage Techniques and myofascial release: heels, transversus arch, f. pinching behind the Achilles

### 2. QUADRUPED:

On dorsiflexed ankles: raise knees (as able) and push heels back into passive a. dorsiflexion (strength and flexibility)

On plantarflexed ankles: stretching the anterior tibialis (flexibility) b.

Place one foot by outside hand and manipulate inversion, inversion, с.

plantaflexion, and dorsiflexion. Repat other side

### 3. STANDING:

Finding ACTIVE FEET on surfaces: stabile floor to labile a.

b.

"Stand on one leg" w/vestibular, ocular, and somatosensory challenges Foot & Ankle Stability: clenching, arching, everting, inverting, with (first) с.

and without (second) knee and hip movement

Heel and Toe lifts: reciprocal and synchronous d.

- e.
- "Tight Rope Walking": a. ARMS OUT, STEP INLINE WITH SPACE BETWEEN FEET b. ARMS OUT, STEP INLINE WITH HEEL TO TOES

  - c. WITHOUT ARMS, STEP INLINE W SPACE BETWEEN FEET d. WITHOUT ARMS, STEP INLINE WITH HEEL TO TOES

  - e. "CATCH YOURSELF" DRILLS W/ AND W/O ARMS

"Step-Outs:" Teacher cues frontal or sagittal plane (side or front) and which f. foot strike to emphasize: "triad," "diad," "heel/calcaneous," "inversion," "eversion"

Anything in this section with one eye closed, both eyes "dim," and/or both g. eyes closed

# 4. SUPINE:

a. Bridging

b. Bridging with Hip Rocks

Single Leg Bridging: focus on SUPPORTING KNEE STABILITY (8-10 с. repetitions, 3 sets as appropriate)

d. Single Leg Bridging with Abduction: focus on SUPPORTING KNE

# Summary:

Home-Work: self-care for feet, importance of discussing shoes and barefoot training, balance and gait training for all populations, Stacey Lei Krauss and willpowermethod.com, Shannon Fable and balletone.com Resources: http://bit.ly/VYI44h Final Take-Home Messages



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