My Personal Reflection on the Integration of Children’s Literature and Mathematics Instruction

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**What have you learned about using literature in mathematics instruction?**

Children’s literature is being integrated into the teaching of mathematics more and more frequently. When integrating the two, children are able to experience a great story while learning math concepts. Teaching math and making a connection with children’s literature has become a popular path to develop a better understanding of mathematical ideas, as well as better mathematical communications through reading, writing, and speaking.

There is a huge range of resources online in regards to integrating children’s literature and mathematics instruction; there are scholarly articles, blogs, and even actual lesson plan ideas, for integrating children’s literature into mathematics instruction, posted all over the internet. If a teacher is having problems integrating children’s literature into his/her mathematics instruction, the internet is a great place to seek ideas from other teachers as well as other schools and educational sites.

**How has this changed or supported your thinking about elementary mathematics instruction?**

This has both changed and supported my thinking about elementary mathematics instruction. Before learning about integrating children’s literature and mathematics, I had only seen direct instruction and the use of manipulatives used to solve math problems. I had a thought in the back of my mind that certain children’s books would be neat to read when learning about certain math concepts, but never really gave it too much thought until researching this specific subject. After researching the subject and seeing all of the lesson plan ideas and how they connect stories with math, I think integrating children’s literature into mathematics instruction is a great idea. I’m a believer that children will have better success in education if some fun is incorporated and reading these children’s books is fun. The books I’ve looked into have fun rhymes and funny stories integrating math concepts. This is definitely something that I feel would engage children in learning!

**How does this assignment connect with the knowledge you have from other teacher education courses?**

I did much research with this assignment and found out that children’s literature has a good impact on a student’s educational experience with math. I have found that with the integration of literature into math instruction children can develop a better understanding of math concepts and communications via reading, writing, and speaking. With this integration, students are also expanding their vocabulary (math vocabulary and general vocabulary) and that knowledge can be transferred into all other areas within their educational experience and even just in life in general.

With that being said, I think this assignment connects with the knowledge I have gained from other teacher education courses I’ve taken thus far because I’ve learned that you need to get the attention of your students and keep them engaged in learning. If they’re interested in what they are learning, they will be engaged in the learning and be successful with what they are learning. Students can then transfer that success to other areas in their education as well as outside their education.

**As a professional educator, how do you plan to incorporate this information into your mathematics instruction?**

I would definitely like to incorporate children’s literature into mathematics instruction as a professional educator. I would first become familiar with a wide variety of children’s books which integrate math concepts into the story. I would choose my favorite books and those books which I feel the kids will really enjoy. Besides choosing my favorites, I will make sure I choose books that cover a variety of math concepts. With these books in mind, I will come up with my own ideas and also research for activity or lesson plan ideas that go along with the specific books I’ve chosen. I would use children’s literature when introducing new concepts as well as when just reviewing certain concepts. After integrating specific books into a lesson, I can reflect on how well integrating that book went and how I can make changes to better the lesson if need be.

**Conclusion**

Integrating children’s literature into mathematics instruction is a growing trend that is helping students develop a better understanding of math concepts. With the wide range of resources regarding this integration, any teacher can integrate children’s books into math and make it fun and engaging for the students! Math has always been my favorite subject, so I’m definitely looking forward to becoming a teacher and being able to integrate children’s books into my own math instruction!