

Using Picture Books and Math to Improve Reading

Description:

This intervention is designed to engage the student as much as possible with the use of ideas which are already familiar. The connection made between the story books and mathematics involved in the reading will engage the child more than just reading a story on their own.

Materials:

- ❖ Books that can be used with math concepts.
- ❖ Mathematics materials that might increase the engagement.

Preparation:

- ❖ Find interesting story books where mathematics can be incorporated or are already present.
- ❖ Read the book to become familiar with its story.
- ❖ Design a math activity that goes along with the story.
 - Examples:
 - The child could read a page, and then count the number of animals on the page. This will increase his self- esteem, and encourage more reading.
 - If the book was about building, you could get blocks and have the child count and build things with the blocks.
 - If the book involves cooking, you could show the child how to measure things. And possibly send a recipe home for the parents to use with the child.

Steps in Implementing this Intervention:

Step 1: Explain the process of the intervention. (i.e. that the child will need to read the book, and then a fun activity with math will be following.)

Step 2: Have the child read the book aloud or silently.

Step 3: Have a small discussing afterwards to ensure comprehension. If the child had problems, reread portions with him.

Step 4: Begin the mathematics activity to make the book more interesting.

Step 5: Repeat with the child. The importance of comprehension and the engagement in the stories should increase over time.

Tips:

- ❖ This would work best with a student who is strong in mathematics, but weak in reading comprehension or reading fluency.

Reference:

Shatzer, J. (2008). Picture book power: Connecting children's literature and mathematics. *The Reading Teacher*, 61(8), 649-653.