

Learning Math through Stories

Description:

This math invention is designed to make the learning of mathematics more interesting. It is suggested that the books not only engage children and help them make mathematical connections, but also provide visualizations of mathematical concepts in the illustrations.

Materials:

- ❖ Books that can materialize a mathematical lesson.
- ❖ Mathematics materials that might increase engagement.

Preparation:

- ❖ Find a book (or books) that can be used to teach a math lesson.
- ❖ Design a math activity that goes along with the story.
 - Many books can easily be incorporated with counting, patterns, measurement, division, etc.

Steps in Implementing this Intervention:

Step 1: Read the story with the child.

Step 2: Use the math activity you designed to follow the story.

Example:

Step 3: Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday (Viorst)- after the book has been read, you could work on counting money, and using addition and subtraction.

Tips:

- ❖ Picture books will increase the interest of the child.
- ❖ Ask questions while reading the story to ensure engagement.
- ❖ Pick a short book so that the child will not get bored, will not lose interest in the transition time between the story and the activity, and the total intervention will not last for too long.

Reference:

Murphy, S.J. (1999). Learning math through stories. *School Library Journal*, 122-123

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