The ability to do math is a lifelong skill. Math is used in some shape or form on a daily basis. Starting in Kindergarten we want to create lifelong critical thinkers and students who can confidently tackle a math problem. We must be able to understand and learn math to function in the world we live in.

According to Chiarelott, “The purpose of the curriculum is to create lifelong learners who know how to learn” (20). Students coming in to Kindergarten are at varying levels in math. It is our job as educators to meet them where they are at and then to create learners who can learn. Kindergarten is the foundation, as teachers we need to start them off thinking critically and encourage critical thinking all throughout their education. If we prepare our students at an early age we will be preparing them for life at an early age. We need to create learners who can both think critically and who can problem solve different ways to go about finding the answer if they are unsure. Chiarelott also said, “Learners become more adept at constructing knowledge rather than acquiring and disseminating information” (21). We want our students to be able to do more than spit out the answer to the math problem. We want them to be able to tell us how they came to that answer, explain the process that they went through in an intelligent manner.

It is important that we think beyond school, we also need to think what these students will be bringing to the table as adults, after their education. Witzel states, “Understanding is important not only for select careers, but also in daily life. From paying bills to predicting expenditures to calculating mileage, we all do math most every day” (89). Are they going to be able to use the math skills that were taught in their job, in their daily life? Are they going to be able to think critically and problem solve with other problems? We need to ensure that these students have the tools necessary to become a productive member of society. If we as educators do not give them the tools, they will be lacking. We want students who are prepared to solve problems, not wait for others to solve problems for them. We need to remember that they are our future. We need to work towards a common goal as educators to create problem solvers and critical thinkers. This can start at the Kindergarten level. We can lay the foundation for productive future citizens.

Students will have some type of mathematics class throughout their entire educational experience. Math can be approached in many different ways. That is one great thing about it. We can all have the same answer, but we can also all have come to that answer in a different way. Math is an important course for every student. It is a course where they are learning many different skills that will help them further their education in math and also help them as they enter adulthood. Math is one of those subjects that is used every day in life. It is very important that our students learn to think critically about math and learn to problem solve. Math helps create deep thinkers and analyzer’s and is a very important foundation in education.

The purpose of this course is to give Kindergartners the basic foundation in math. The students will receive the information and skills needed to prepare them for the math skills that they will build upon or learn in first grade. This course is designed to encourage students to be problem solvers. They will be able to collaborate daily during math to solve and find the answer to different problems. According to Linder, “Math lessons in early childhood should use child-centered practices to develop children’s conceptual understanding of a variety of topics” (27). Teacher will model specific skills to students and allow students to then practice these skills using child- centered practices. Witzel states, “We can start early young children who show signs of difficulty learning math by teaching them to make connections from numeral to number and to understand the value of numbers” (94) In this way the course will be preparing students for later courses in math and also skills that will be needed in life.

References

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