

Statement of Purpose

The Problem

In this district, the math curriculum provided to the teachers is not aligned with the Common Core State Standards. However, the school district has adopted these standards and wants teachers to ensure that their students are meeting them and also requires that teachers continue to use the current outdated curriculum that is dull and boring for students as it does not draw connections or involve much hands-on learning. Therefore, I must ensure that the curriculum I teach to my kindergarten classroom meets the needs of the student and the district by making it align with the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten Mathematics. In addition, I must make sure that the learning experiences had is meaningful to encourage students to participate and get excited about learning through drawing connections and including hands-on experiences through the use of manipulatives.

After examining the curriculum, I learned that many of the skills being taught are not necessary as they do not apply to the Common Core State Standards. I also noticed that the curriculum did not have a heavy focus on learning the math operations of addition and subtraction. These skills were taught in the middle of other skills and were often not revisited for months. This is a major problem as many students in my classroom do not learn skills by only being taught them once or twice and then reviewed at a later date. My students learn best when skills are taught in unit forms and the lessons build upon each other and increase to higher level thinking. This also allows me to ensure that students have mastery of the skills before moving on and teaching something new.

Needs of the Learner

My kindergarten classroom has a wide range of learning needs. Many of my students are new to learning many of the basic mathematical foundation skills such as counting, decomposing numbers, and performing basic operations. This is due to students entering the school year at a variety of different levels due to past home and preschool experiences. Based on this, I need a curriculum that allows me to teach at varying levels along with providing opportunities for relevant hands-on learning experiences to keep these young learners engaged and interested in the content.

Needs of Society

Students in my classroom need to be able to recognize and write numbers, count, add, and subtract in order to be functioning individuals of society. Not only will these skills help my students to be able to get a job one day but will also help them to be an active member of society through being able to complete everyday life tasks such as making phone calls, driving, going shopping, etc.

Value of the Subject Matter

Mathematical skills can be found in all subject matters at some level. Many scientific processes can be explained using mathematical formulas. In writing, we teach students to count the number of sentences they have to ensure they have a good solid paragraph. Students need to be able to read and write numbers and understand place value in order to understand important dates in social studies. Math is all around us and students need to grasp these skills in order to be successful in other content areas.

The Educational Goal

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide a way to teach the foundational math skills that students are required to learn based on the Common Core State Standards. The course starts with the very basics of counting and learning to read and write numbers. Then the course moves on to teaching students how to decompose numbers. Learning this skill will allow them to move on to learning how to perform the basic mathematical operations of addition and subtraction. The course is designed to help students with different learning needs by teaching many methods and strategies to accomplish these skills.