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# BC Reggio-Inspired Mathematics Project

## March 2021 Newsletter

**Welcome to the third of our monthly newsletters,  
new for 2021!**

(for best viewing of images, open in your browser)

As we continue to nurture and grow this professional inquiry project, we welcome educators from across the world to join in our dialogue, our proposals and our collaboration.

[link to our blog](#)

In each newsletter, we intend to share an encounter with mathematics, introduce you to educators in our project and share recommended resources. We would love your suggestions as to what this newsletter can offer you.

## Encounters with Data

March has brought all sorts of things to observe - snow melting, buds forming on trees, growth emerging from bulbs and seeds. Investigating data begins with the process of observing, collecting and representing data and then moves to interpreting, analyzing and making inferences and connections. Invite students to investigate data with the following questions:

- *What would you like to observe? What could you count or measure?*
- *How could you record or keep track of your observations?*
- *How could you represent your data in a graph or chart?*
- *What story does your graph or chart share?*
- *What do you wonder? What might you investigate next to help you understand the world around you?*



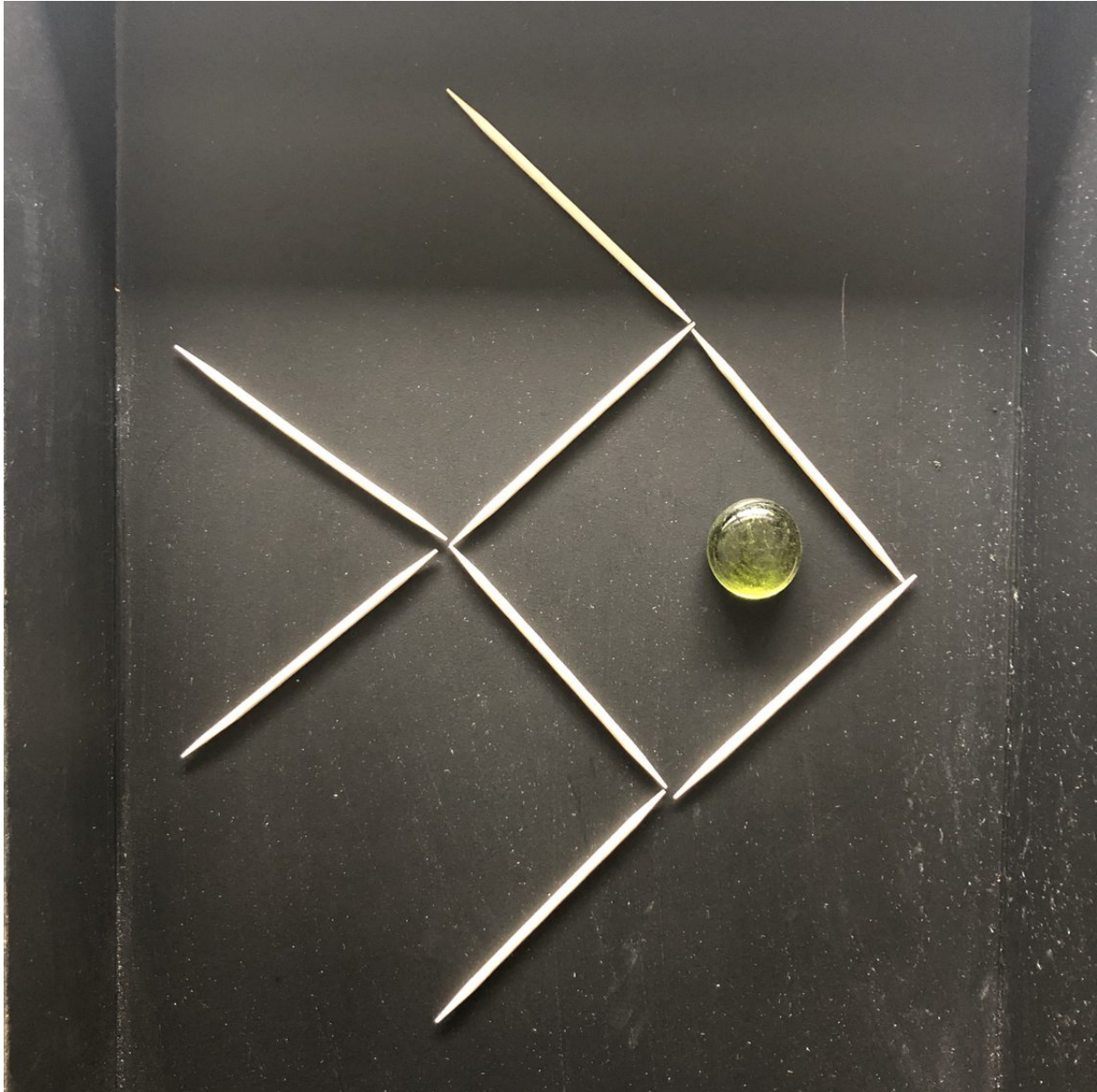
*Assessment questions to consider: Are students able to record data using pictures, tallies, numbers or symbols? Are students able to represent data in a chart or graph? Are students able to interpret and analyze data for meaning? Do students make connections and ask*

*questions about data/information? What connections are your students making that might inspire further investigation and inquiry?*

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## Spatial Reasoning Spark

This month on Twitter, the spatial reasoning “spark” we share is for students is a classic “matchstick puzzle” - *how can you move just two sticks to have the fish swim upwards?* Students can use toothpicks, popsicle sticks, twigs, etc to recreate the puzzle and then consider how they might engage with it. How might students use trial and error by picking up and moving sticks to solve this puzzle? Do students pause and visualize first before moving sticks? Do students move their bodies or their perspective to help them see this puzzle in a new way? Spatial reasoning is an essential area of mathematics that is embedded in the big ideas and curricular content and competencies in our BC mathematics curriculum.



There are many toothpick or matchstick puzzles available in books and online.

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## Educator Profile

This month we feature Laura Fee. Laura was one of the



first cross-district teachers in this project, joining us with the West Vancouver School District team. She currently teaches Kindergarten at Irwin Park Elementary in West Vancouver. Laura tweets at @LFee17



Laura's thoughts on the impact of our professional

collaborative inquiry project: *I originally became interested in joining the BC Reggio mathematics group because I found teaching math to be a challenge. Not only did it feel so separate from other subject areas, but I was always struggling to figure out what to do with the students who 'finished early' and how to best support those that were having difficulty understanding the concepts. Learning alongside this group of inspiring educators helped me discover ways to embed math in all subject areas and provide opportunities that are accessible for all learners. This was just the beginning of my journey. I continue to build confidence in my own understanding of mathematical concepts, as well as an increased willingness to take risks in my own teaching practice, something that I was always encouraging from students but not necessarily doing myself. I am forever grateful for the support and guidance from this exceptional network of colleagues!*

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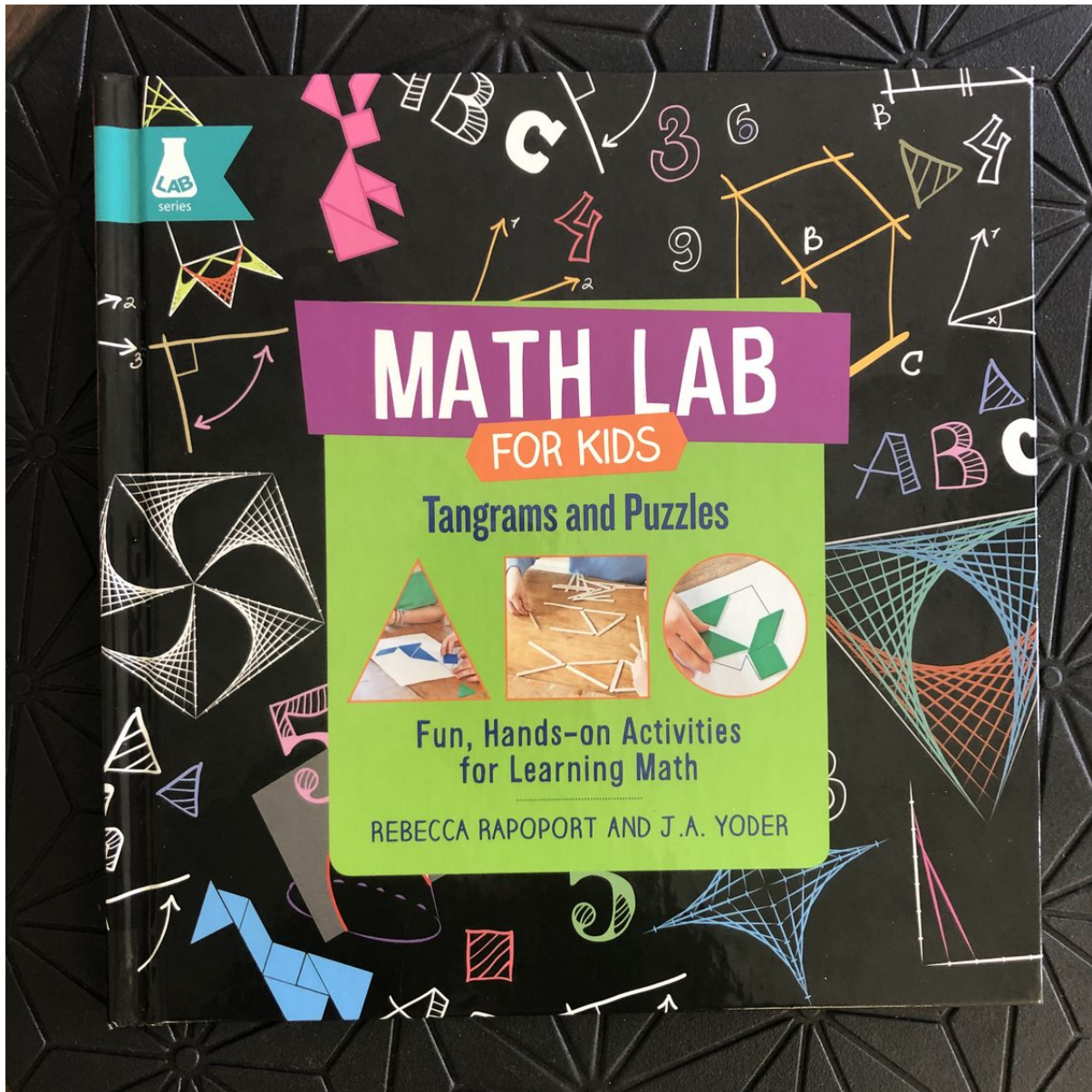
## Recommended Resources

A Canadian children's book that provides all sorts of prompts for data investigations is *Sorting Through Spring* by Lizann Flatt and illustrated by Ashley Barron. This book is one of four in the *Math in Nature* series, published by OwlKids.



There are many collections of spatial reasoning puzzles available. Math Lab for Kids: Tangrams and Puzzles by Rebecca Rapoport and J. A. Yoder includes many tangram and toothpick puzzles.





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