BC Reggio-Inspired Mathematics Project

August 2024

some considerations for designing for the learning of mathematics:

"I like to use 5–15-minute math talks to introduce a new concept. They provide opportunities to see what the class already knows and what they might be wondering. Math talks are also great for reviewing or refining understanding of a concept and developing mathematical discourse. I'm always listening for emergent questions that could inspire a math talk." ~Sarah Wong

"Sometimes a Reggio based lesson can look intimidating because of the materials used, but it doesn't have to be fancy. You don't have to have beautiful, wooden loose parts to facilitate an engaging lesson. Some of our most used loose parts are plastic pattern blocks, snap cubes and popsicle sticks! Don't overthink it, just try a lesson with the materials you have on hand."
~Vanessa Steunenberg

"When I plan my year, I don't include units of study on data or measurement as I know those concepts always come up emergently connected to projects or interdisciplinary studies. I still intentionally think about mini-lessons that I know I will teach when the time comes, but they will be connected to whatever project the graphing and data analysis, or measuring is about."
~Janice Novakowski

"When planning for my outdoor classroom, my goal is to stay flexible and ready to jump on those spontaneous math moments—whether it's counting leaves or measuring tree heights. I'll keep open-ended questions in my back pocket to guide students' curiosity as we explore together. Some questions I might consider: Why do you think different trees have different heights? How do you think we could measure and compare the heights of the trees around us?"
~Lauren MacLean

"While we always need a plan that ensures that the curriculum is being uncovered, we also need to create space for our students' wonders and interests to be explored and investigated. By listening, responding, and thoughtfully planning, our students' ideas can take us to amazing places. While investigating their math wonders, students will see the connections between different math strands and how to apply their math thinking in real life experiences."
~Michelle Hikida

"To help me plan for the school year I like to go on walks in my school community to get some inspiration. I take note of the things that surprise me or that I'd like to know more about (trees, houses, businesses, historical landmarks, etc.). The seasons also guide my work, and I always make sure to include current events in my planning as I know the students respond well to this. I observe and think about those with my math goggles on and more often than not, many curricular competencies and a variety of math content come up at the same time. Doing this ensures that some of the content isn't taught in isolation. When I plan my week, I always ensure to leave empty blocks of time so that I can follow up on the lessons taught. And of course, the Year Overviews (Coast Metro) are very useful to have on hand when planning but also as a reference over the course of the school year." ~Annie Simard

"1) Start the year by observing your students closely. Take note of their interests, interactions, and inquiries. These observations will serve as the foundation for your planning, helping you to identify topics and explorations that resonate with your students. 2) Look for opportunities to integrate different subjects (cross curricular) into your planning. For example, if the children are interested in building, you can incorporate math (measuring), science (materials and structures), and art (designing) into the project. 3) Regularly document children's progress and experiences throughout the year. Use photos, videos, and written observations to capture their learning journeys. This documentation not only reflects their growth but also provides valuable insights for future planning. 4) Create a classroom culture that celebrates inquiry and exploration. Encourage children to ask questions, take risks, and pursue their interests. This environment will foster a love for learning and empower them to be active participants in their education. Remember, the journey is as important as the destination, so enjoy the process of learning with your students." ~Colleen Sturrock