

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for sharing your classroom with one of our pre-service teachers. As part of their field experience assignments for the class TED 323: Math Content and Teaching Techniques K-3, the pre-service teacher should observe and be involved in math learning in your classroom. There are some specific observation and teaching assignments that go along with this course:

Single student interviews: the pre-service teacher will be doing short (approximately 5 minute) math word problem interviews with 4 individual students. *The goal of these interviews are for the preservice teacher to gain experience observing the children's strategies when thinking about and trying to solve problems, and become more aware of observations and interviews as tools for formative assessment and planning.* The pre-service teacher will prepare a variety of easier and harder word problems for the children to try to solve (the goal is to ask some problems that all children will be able to solve, and some problems that not all children will be able to solve, or that some children will find difficult). The focus of this interview is how the wording of a problem affects the difficulty (as opposed to the size of the numbers).

Number talks/math talks: the preservice teacher will be conducting 3 short (approximately 10 minute) math discussions with children. *The goal of the math talks is for children to share their strategies for figuring out math problems, and for the preservice teacher to gain experience with asking good questions to get children to participate and share their ideas.* These number talks should happen on 3 different days (preferably not spaced too far apart) with the same group of children: they are allowed to do the number talks with the whole class, groups within the class at stations or with a single small group, but they should conduct the number talks with the same group or groups each time: one goal is to plan questions that build on each other from day to day.

Math read aloud: the preservice teacher will be teaching a lesson (20-30 minutes) that includes a read-aloud of a children's literature book, followed by a math exploration that is related to the book. *The goal of this lesson is for children to explore math within the context of an engaging children's book, and for the pre-service teacher to practice developing a multi-disciplinary lesson that incorporates language and literacy with math concepts and skills.* As with the math talks, the math read-aloud can be done with the whole class, groups within the class at stations or with a single small group (whatever best fits your class and schedule).

Some details about these assignments can be found at the web site:

<http://langfordmath.com/ECEMath/F2015/FieldExperienceAssignments.html>

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



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