

Songs that Reinforce Math Content

Teaching Strategies Series

Teaching Strategies segments are brief 1-3 minute videos that feature examples of effective classroom practices from teachers around the country.

About this Segment

In this segment, kindergarten teacher Carol Stafford at Altruria Elementary in Shelby County, Tennessee, uses songs to activate and reinforce math content as her students learn to decompose the number five. Songs in this segment remind students how to spell, add, and subtract the number five, as well as define the word “decompose.”

Suggested PD Activities

Educators may use the Teaching Strategies video segments and accompanying materials as professional development on an individual basis or as part of a learning group.

Discussion: After watching the video, use the following prompt to facilitate discussion.

1. How do you reinforce content for your students in memorable ways? Share an example.

Reflection: After the discussion, participants are encouraged to record new learning and ideas. The following questions can be used to encourage reflection.



(Reflection questions can also be found online with the resources for this video.)

1. What is the impact of Ms. Stafford using songs to teach math content?
2. How can you implement songs that reinforce content in your classroom activities?
3. What adaptations would you make in implementing songs in your classroom?

Scholarly publications available on this topic:

Brown, Ron, and Nancy Brown. “Use songs to teach.” *Reading & Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Difficulties* 13, no. 4 (1997): 349-354.

Bryant-Jones, Marian, Kimberley J. Shimmins, and Jill D. Vega. “Increasing Math Achievement through Use of Music.” (2003). <http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED478919.pdf>

Online resources available on this topic:

Harry Kindergarten YouTube Channel. <http://www.youtube.com/user/HarryKindergarten>

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