April Walker

Foundations of Numbers and Operations

October 27, 2017

Professor Taylor

Why Math is So Hard?

(A series of personal short stories and experiences)

When it comes to math, students are either going to love it or dislike. They will either excel at it or struggle with it. I’m definitely the one who struggles with math and even cringed with the thought of math. So, why is math hard for many? You would think dealing with numbers will be easy-peasy, but there are different concepts to a problem that will leave you complexed and confused. Although math may be difficult, math is very important and is needed to be taught at an early age. Of course, I was taught math at an early age, however, I had difficulty catching on quick like some of the students. There are several reasons why math is hard for some students grasp. In this writing assignment, I’m going to point out why math was hard to learn through my own experiences and what I did to improve in math.

According to many theorist, people brains are wired with different math comprehension skills (Grace Fleming, 2017). I can attest to that theory. I can remember like yesterday, when I was in first grade, my teacher Mrs. Willis introduced adding and subtracting money. I would get confused with the value of money and somehow could not comprehend the assignments. Usually, I could quickly catch on to any lessons taught. However, this assignment threw me off and I tried my best, but I could not just get it. On the other hand, there was Victoria sitting by me and she had no problem with the lesson. I can tell that I frustrated the teacher, but I didn’t give up. I remember going home afterschool and my mom and grandmother will help me to count money. They would ask me questions that would make me think. It took me a little longer to understand and figure out solving word problems with money, however, it finally clicked. It was hard for me because I comprehended differently.

In third grade, we started multiplications. Our teacher told us if we can remember our multiplication fact family up to the 12, we will be given a sundae party. My best friend was so quick to learn her multiplication. She would know her fact families up to 12 and I would be on 8. I really struggled with 9 and 8 without my time table sheet. The teacher put us in small groups daily and we practiced with flash cards. We also played a game that dealt with our time tables. We were put in two groups and our teacher would call out a problem that we had to solve on the board, which helped a lot of us. With her help and much practice, I reached my goal and made it to the sundae party. My brain would seem to crumble when it was time for math. Somehow, I always pulled it through at the end.

Another experienced I can remember about math is in middle school. In sixth grade we were learning evaluating expressions by using square roots and dealing with fractions. For some reason, it appears the work was harder, and the hour spent in that class felt like two hours. Well I had a C for the first time on my report card. I remember being upset because I never had a C. My uncle told me if I brought my C up to an A, he would give me $50. I was eager to take on the challenge, but of course I had my doubts. How in the world am I going to bring up this C? For one I had to practice more. Secondly, I asked the teacher to show me ways that I may understand the problems better. Again, I was able to pull it off and made a 91% on my report. My uncle still believe that my teacher and I tricked him. In all honesty, I studied hard for $50.

In conclusion, the reason why math is so hard for some students is because we all comprehend math differently. Some students will catch on fast and some it will take longer to grasp. With help from teachers, tutors, friends, and family members, students will be able to improve in math and overcome being stuck and afraid of math. Because of my experience in math when I was younger and even now, it encourages me to be patient and persistent with my children. We all learn differently through creative teaching styles and we have to respect that.