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Math 2008

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When I started school, I had love/hate relationship with Math and to a certain extent I still feel the same way about it. I dreaded the math section through grade school, and even when I started college. I cannot count how many times the words, “I’m not even going to use this!” came out of my mouth over the years. However, I use different things that I learned throughout the many different math classes I took, every single day. Even simple things like counting the number of children I have in my class at work.

I work at a daycare and I am around children all day. It is my job to always know how many children are in my care. Which requires me to constantly count them. I am also involved with our after-school program, where they have homework every day. It has been interesting to see throughout this semester in taking this class that I have been doing a lot of the same things that they are learning in their classes and it has helped me tremendously with being able to help them with their work and to help them understand it better. It has also helped me to keep up with my work better and helps me review everything to make sure that I know what I’m doing.

A couple of weeks into the semester, our class was working in chapter two of our book. We were learning about the different properties of addition. I have always had a hard time with remembering how to identify which property is being used and this time was not any different. Since I had gotten a little behind in my other classes, I decided to bring my homework with me to work that afternoon to give myself some extra time to study the properties. While the kids in my class were doing their homework, I pulled mine out. I was a couple of problems in when a girl came up to me because she just could not figure a problem out. She was struggling with a problem that asked her to identify which property was being used in the word problem. She told me that her biggest problem was being able to remember which property did what. I showed her my own work and told her that I was having the same problems, but that we would figure it out together. Being able to go through and teach her about the different properties and how to identify them really helped me to understand and remember it better and she was able to figure the problem out and the rest of her homework without any more help from me.

Although I am still not the biggest fan of the subject. I am starting to understand the importance of math in and outside of the classroom. Sometimes you might just need to learn it to pass the class, or maybe you need to learn it to teach it to a class one day. Math is somehow involved in almost every aspect of life and it is important that we know what we’re doing. As a teacher I hope that I will be able to help my students understand that it’s okay to not be fond of the subject, as long as they give it the chance it deserves in order for them to learn what they need to learn.