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Persistence Pays

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Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics



Teaching children to solve problems is terrific. Teaching children to discover, formulate, and explore their own problems is even better. Problem identification is a critical component of progressive companies such as 3M, Google, and Yahoo. After all, did we

know we *needed* computers and cell phones 40 years ago? Problems relating to communication pathways were identified and solved, much to the credit of progressive, innovative thinkers.

What would uncover more grit, persistence, and perseverance than a problem identified by a student--accompanied by time and opportunity to start the journey toward a solution? What are some ways you can best motivate students to find their own problems to investigate?

In This Issue

How to Learn Math, by Jo Boaler

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Upcoming Conferences

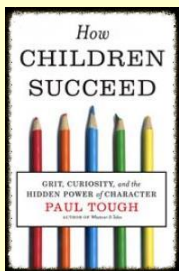
How Children Succeed, by Paul Tough

Shout Out! Early Childhood Academy PCS



The staff at the Early Childhood Academy Public Charter School in Washington, DC knows that an early start is a good start. Their young students are learning how to become mathematically proficient through multi-sensory explorations and student-centered discourse.

During Robyn's hands-on and minds-on professional development workshops, kinesthetic and tactile



In How Children Succeed, Paul Tough explains that helping children memorize math facts and procedures may have its place, but building character is more critical to success and happiness. Through fascinating case studies, Tough describes how traits such as grit, self-control, zest, social intelligence, gratitude, optimism, and curiosity prepare children for life's challenges. As teachers, our job is to provide the opportunities for students to build character. We can start by creating classrooms that welcome risk, failure, persistence, perseverance, and collaboration.

Malala Yousafzai Speaks Out

Malala Yousafzai is the 16-year-old Pakistani girl who touched the world with her advocacy for gender equality in education. In an effort to continue her fight for girls' education rights, she spoke at the World Bank on Friday, October 11, 2013, and was interviewed by Diane Sawyer on 20/20. Her book, I am Malala, provides more depth and insight into the challenges and triumphs of her life. Malala's story is an inspiration for people of all ages.



NCTM Regional Conferences



The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics hosts three Regional Conferences in the Fall. This year, the dates and locations are:
Baltimore: October 16-18
Las Vegas: October 23-25
Louisville: November 6-8

Robyn will be presenting Linking Problem Solving and the Standards for Mathematical Practice at the Baltimore Regional Conference October 17, 8-9 AM, Key Ballroom 6. Download the handout and join us!

In the Next Newsletter

activities made the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice come to life. Teachers left their in-service days motivated to provide similar experiences for their students. Subsequent walk-throughs around the school proved that movement toward living the Standards is well underway for the youngsters at the Early Childhood Academy.

Creating a Mathematically Rich Learning Environment



In the October Coaches' Corner of Teaching Children Mathematics, Robyn describes in detail how to create the mathematically rich learning environment required to nurture the habits of mind as outlined in the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice. In these classrooms, expect to see/hear:

- (a) students discussing, defining, and defending throughout the day
- (b) engaging tasks with multiple entry points
- (d) self respect and respect for others



--**Review:** David and Goliath, by Malcolm Gladwell
--**Shout Out!** Scheduling for Success
--**Coaches' Corner** Teaching Children Mathematics, News & Reviews
--**And much more!**

Customized Visits to Suit Your Needs



Call 301-802-5285 or email [Robyn](mailto:rsilbey@hotmail.com) at rsilbey@hotmail.com to talk about visits to your district or school.

(e) rigorous experiences that expose the world outside of the school

Preview! In November's Coaches Corner, Robyn tells about the mutually beneficial process of co-teaching.

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