

## BUILDING A PHILOMATH 101

by:

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Out of eight subjects that a student is tasked to take, math is one of the most feared due to its difficulty. It is viewed as something hard and incomprehensible; thus, people good at math are automatically applauded and categorized as smart. Ever since, math skills are hard to acquire; but not impossible, so, various education experts embark to conduct studies to let the students develop an interest and love for math.

There is a prominent adage that goes, 'when you want to establish something, start as soon as possible,' so, employing a strategic plan for students to have an interest in math at a young age is unquestionably an excellent tactic and as grade level goes by, teachers must continue to facilitate mathematical learning by also ensuring that the students will not be bored throughout a session. Bricks 4 Kidz, is an organization funded by Lego company. This organization introduces a new and innovative way when it comes to teaching such complicated subjects.

### Competitions

As children, they love to be recognized and applauded, so they will persevere more to win a competition against their rivals. By doing this, the child will learn more and strive more to learn the concepts of what is being taught to him or her. On the other hand, the facilitator of the game, maybe a teacher or a parent, must also be aware of the capacity of the child and give them only mathematical problems that they can solve. For example, timed addition, relay race of various mathematical basic problems for group, paper and pen quiz, and such.

## Reward System

Children are fond of the idea of rewards; thus, taking advantage of this is a good thing. By explaining to the child and having an agreement that they must accomplish a certain task at the right time, then they will receive a reward. This is a good practice to employ the use of math exercises so that the child will be trained to aim for a goal. From that, the facilitator must prepare an enticing reward that the child wants.

## Relate to their Interests

As the facilitator, understanding the learner's interest is a crucial part because this can help boost the interest of the child too to the other hobbies. For example, if the child likes cooking, then the facilitator can introduce the use of measurements and the basic operations. In this case, the child will not be bored and pressured to learn the concepts of math because she loves what she is doing.

## Playing Games

Children in elementary are definitely in the latency stage; hence, their love for constantly playing is there. The teachers may use this stage to introduce math to them by using math games like board and card games.

Mathematics is well-stigmatized as something hard and incomprehensible; however, it is not. By building a strong foundation of love for math, then every child will be interested to learn math. There are concepts in math that are quite challenging, but without the fear, the student will be determined to learn and pursue every mathematical problem. The teacher must make sure that the students are inclined and having fun in the field of expertise that they belong to.

*References:*

Web FX. (2020, November 20). How to Build a Strong Mathematics Foundation. Retrieved from Bricks 4 Kidz: <https://www.bricks4kidz.com/blog/how-to-build-strong-math-foundation/>