Syllabus

Course: Discovery-Based Mathematics, Part I
Presenter: Paul Lawrence

Required: Discovery-Based Math Manipulatives Kit (included in $69 materials fee) and Discovery-Based Mathematics: Teaching Elementary Mathematics Course 1

Course Overview

These numbers don’t lie: test scores soar when students have a true understanding of number sense. Discovery-Based Mathematics is a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to math that grounds student knowledge firmly in number sense and then develops conceptual understanding, so that students can do double-digit computation ... in their heads!

Presenter Paul Lawrence leads educators through easy-to-implement, well-sequenced activities that build foundational and conceptual understanding in real, whole, and negative numbers and addition and subtraction of whole numbers. Using a variety of manipulatives, Lawrence demonstrates the importance of using hands-on discovery-based learning to move students from concrete to iconic to symbolic representations, before introducing procedures. His methods address kinesthetic and visual as well as abstract learning styles. Educators follow along, using the materials in the Discovery-Based Math Manipulatives Kit, as they do the same activities workshop participants do. Educators learn techniques, activities, and games to assess students’ skills and concept understanding, so that lessons can be adjusted to meet the needs of all learners.

Required Discovery-Based Math Manipulatives Kit

The supplementary kit includes a custom-tailored handbook to follow the online courses, as well as correlating handouts, Discovery Templates, a Self-Study Guide, and the patented “Communicator,” along with many manipulatives for hands-on activities. (The kit materials are packaged in a convenient carrying case.)

Course Objectives

After completing this course, educators will know:

- Reasons why discovery-based strategies are essential components in all math classrooms
- How to use base ten blocks, connecting cubes, and geoboards to teach conceptual understanding, fact mastery, and algorithm understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers
Why all students need to experience concepts through concrete, iconic, and then symbolic stages of learning

Techniques of how to transfer concrete understanding to fact and algorithmic mastery of traditional algorithms

How to use response devices, such as the Communicator, to monitor understanding, adjust lessons, and formulate questions that reflect students’ current level of understanding

How to incorporate techniques that build foundational understanding, number sense, and estimation skills so that students can effectively know when to use mental math, paper and pencil, or estimation, or a calculator

Understanding of the appropriate uses of a calculator

Techniques for developing critical higher-order thinking skills and writing within the math curriculum

How to use inquiry based techniques to foster student understanding, self-esteem, and self-confidence

Reasons why this discovery-based approach to math will have a profound impact on student test scores

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, educators will apply the following skills:

- Implement constructivist strategies
- Use manipulatives to teach conceptual understanding, fact mastery, and algorithmic understanding
- Segue students through concrete, iconic, and symbolic stages of learning
- Use response devices to monitor understanding, affect modifications in lessons, and formulate questions for class discussion
- Build students’ foundational understanding, number sense, and estimation skills
- Employ inquiry-based techniques that foster student understanding, self-esteem, and self-confidence

Unit 1: Classifying, Ordering, and Exploring Real Numbers: Part 1

Paul Lawrence illustrates various ways that discovery-based instructional strategies can be effectively applied to math instruction at the elementary level. In this presentation, Mr. Lawrence considers the changes that have come about in math education in recent years: a move from rote, procedure based, textbook learning to more constructivist, discovery based teaching and learning. He suggests that math teachers need to adopt a more hands-on approach to instruction in which students are presented with procedures only after they have mastered the concept that underlies the procedure. In this presentation, he addresses the use
of a variety of math manipulatives and demonstrates how these can be effectively applied to helping students understand the base ten number system.

**Unit Objectives**

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- Reasons for using math manipulatives
- Uses of the Communicator™
- Understand discovery-based methods to help students understand the base ten number system
- How to use discovery templates
- How to help students understand how to order and compare sets of whole numbers

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

- Employ math manipulatives in instruction
- Use the Communicator™ and discovery templates
- Use discovery-based methods to help students understand the base ten number system
- Guide students to illustrate, compare, and order sets of whole numbers

**Unit 2: Classifying, Ordering, and Exploring Real Numbers: Part 2**

Paul Lawrence considers how discovery-based learning can guide students to master essential math concepts including: rounding, ordering, exponential notation, prime numbers, and composite numbers. Lawrence models using variety of math manipulatives, such as math cubes, geoboards, and arrays, as well as templates to help students visualize numbers and other math concepts and develop critical higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

**Unit Objectives**

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- Why math manipulatives are essential for teaching math concepts
- How discovery-based methods can substantially enrich math instruction
- How geoboards and arrays can help teach essential math concepts
- Why discovery-based approaches help students develop important higher order thinking skills, e.g., problem solving and pattern seeking

**Student Learning Outcomes**
After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:
- Use math manipulatives including geoboards and arrays to teach essential math concepts
- Use discovery-based methods to enrich math instruction and help students develop important higher order thinking skills, e.g., problem solving and pattern seeking

Unit 3: Classifying, Ordering, and Exploring Real Numbers: Part 3

In this unit, Paul Lawrence introduces the idea of a function machine. He explores ways function machines can be used for factorization, finding greatest common factors, and finding least common multiples. Lawrence also demonstrates an inquiry-based approach that leads students to discover divisibility rules.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:
- What a function machine is and how it can be used to teach essential math concepts
- Strategies to help students discover and understand divisibility

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:
- Use function machines to teach essential math concepts
- Employ strategies to help students understand divisibility

Unit 4: Exploring Negative Numbers, Scientific Notation, and Order of Operations

In this unit, Paul Lawrence explores how teachers can help students understand comparisons between negative and positive numbers through their familiarity with vertical number lines, (i.e., thermometers). He demonstrates how scientific notation can be taught and used in calculations without introducing the idea of moving the decimal point. Finally, he addresses order of operations and provides a model for leading students to discover the correct order without relying on the acronym PEMDAS (Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally). He emphasizes the point that calculators can be effective tools to help students understand and explore concepts when used during concept discovery problem solving.

Unit Objectives
After completing this unit educators will know:

- How to introduce and help students visualize negative numbers
- How to effectively teach scientific notation and its use in calculations without using the idea of moving the decimal point
- How to use investigation to teach order of operations
- When to use PEMDAS in teaching the order of operations

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

- Use vertical timelines to introduce and compare positive and negative numbers
- Teach scientific notation through discovery without using the procedure of moving the decimal point
- Explore order of operations through problem-solving investigations
- Use acronyms to summarize conclusions drawn

Unit 5: Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers: Part 1

Paul Lawrence explores how teachers can help students understand basic addition and subtraction of whole numbers. Using connecting cubes, geoboards, hundred blocks and charts, Lawrence demonstrates how to extend fact practice to include algebraic thinking skills long before the standard introduction to the algorithms. Lawrence explains the value of teaching subtraction as counting on, as a means to also practice making change and calculating elapsed time.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- Why manipulatives should be used for understanding of basic addition and subtraction facts
- The sequence of steps in developing understanding to the symbolic stage
- The value of teaching subtraction as counting on
- How to use flats, rods, and units to add and subtract
- Multiple strategies for solving math problems

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:
• Use a variety of manipulatives to ground basic addition and subtraction facts in concrete and iconic experiences
• Develop understanding of addition and subtraction through the symbolic stage
• Teach subtraction as counting on
• Teach addition and subtraction using multiple strategies

Unit 6: Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers: Part 2

In this second unit on addition and subtraction of whole numbers, Paul Lawrence introduces several games that can be used to help students master addition and subtraction with whole numbers. He demonstrates how games build understanding of concepts and provide much needed practice in ways that students enjoy. He also addresses the important number-sense skill of estimating and why teachers should teach multiples strategies to solve mixed sets of multi-digit addition and subtraction problems.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

• Why games are important teaching tools
• The games “Win a Flat,” “Lose a Flat,” and “Column Addition”
• The importance of teaching multiple strategies for solving math problems
• How to help students develop their capacity to estimate answers to math problems

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

• Use the games “Win a Flat,” “Lose a Flat,” and “Column Addition” to teach addition and subtraction
• Teach multiple strategies for solving math problems
• Teach students to estimate answers to math problems

Unit 7: Mastering Multiplication and Division Facts: Part 1
In this first of a three units on mastering multiplication and division facts, Lawrence leads teachers through several exercises to ground student understanding in concrete experiences. He uses Elinor Pinczes’ *One Hundred Hungry Ants*, manipulatives, and student-made booklets to make the abstract personal. Lawrence demonstrates how to use arrays to reinforce concepts of rows and columns and the commutative property of multiplication. He urges teachers to ensure that students have a firm grasp of the concept of multiplication before introducing the times tables. In doing so, he carefully moves from the concrete to the iconic and then the symbolic. Lawrence also stresses the importance of using more than one approach to reach the same end — i.e., to facilitate students’ mastery of the concept.

**Unit Objectives**

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- Why they should use manipulatives to teach multiplication
- Why it is important to use multiple strategies when teaching math concepts
- How to move from the concrete to the iconic to the symbolic to teach math concepts

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

- Use concrete manipulatives to teach multiplication
- Use Elinor Pinczes’ *One Hundred Hungry Ants* to develop math concepts
- Develop students’ understanding of rows and columns
- Teach multiple strategies for understanding math concepts
- Teach strategies that move from concrete to iconic to symbolic

**Unit 8: Mastering Multiplication and Division Facts: Part 2**

In the second of a three-part session on mastering multiplication and division facts, Paul Lawrence continues to model multiple strategies for teaching multiplication. Having demonstrated using arrays and groups of things in part 1, Lawrence models the strategy of repeated addition. Once again, he shows how to use a calculator, this time as function machine for repeated addition to explore concepts. Lawrence reviews how to have students make their own individual multiplication booklets. Incorporating higher-order thinking skills, Lawrence introduces using open-ended math questions and writing about math to further understanding as well as analytic and writing skills. After students fully understand the concepts, Lawrence offers effective strategies for memorizing the multiplication tables for numbers 1 through 10. He shows how of the 100 facts, there are just 15 “hard” facts to memorize. Finally he demonstrates how teachers can employ geoboards to simultaneously teach rectangles, areas, and multiplication facts.
Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- How to use a calculator as a function machine
- Why open-ended questions and discussion in math instruction are important
- Ways to use geoboards to teach multiple concepts
- How to construct practice pages that support conceptual understanding

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

- Program and use a calculator as a function machine for repeated addition
- Use open-ended math questions, written answers, and analyzing the answers of others to promote concept comprehension, writing, and thinking skills
- Use geoboards to review or teach multiple concepts
- Develop practice pages that support concept understanding with iconic representations of algorithms

Unit 9: Mastering Multiplication and Division Facts: Part 3

In this third of three units on mastering multiplication and division facts, Paul Lawrence continues to model how teachers can help students master the concept of multiplication and extends his discussion to include division. He introduces several games and strategies to use with multi-digit multiplication. Lawrence shows how students can develop the capacity to use mental math to solve double-digit multiplication problems.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- Games that reinforce instruction in multiplication and division
- Function machines that teach multiplication
- How to teach multiplication using partial product algorithm
- Steps to teach students to do mental math with multi-digit multiplication problems

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:
• Use games to reinforce instruction in multiplication and division
• Use function machines to teach multiplication
• Use partial product algorithm
• Implement a sequence of steps to teach students mental math with multi-digit multiplication problems

Unit 10: Mastering Multiplication and Division Beyond Facts: Part 1

This is the first of a two more units on multiplication and division, moving beyond basic facts to understanding multi-digit computation. Paul Lawrence demonstrates how to use arrays and partial product methods to do multi-digit multiplication problems. He also introduces ideas and suggestions for helping students learn to decide when a problem is best solved using pencil and paper, estimation, or a calculator.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

• How to use arrays to teach multi-digit multiplication
• How to use the partial product algorithm to teach multi-digit multiplication
• When and how to estimate and validate estimations for multi-digit multiplication problems
• When and why students should use calculators

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

• Use arrays to teach multi-digit multiplication
• Teach the partial product algorithm to compute multi-digit multiplication
• Employ strategies to estimate and validate estimations for multi-digit multiplication problems
• Have students use calculators appropriately

Unit 11: Mastering Multiplication and Division Beyond Facts: Part 2

This is the second of two units that move beyond basic multiplication and division. Paul demonstrates how teachers can use tile templates, play money and partial quotient and fare
share methods to help their student understand and solve multi-digit division problems. Lawrence shares worksheets from his programs in which students need to apply number sense to decide the best method for solving problems along with computation practice using different strategies. Part 1 of the course concludes with Three Digit Fun, a game for students to practice multiple skills and strategies as they figure out how to make three digits into problems that equal the given answers.

Unit Objectives

After completing this unit, educators will know:

- How to use templates and acting out to teach multi-digit division
- Why multiple strategies should be used to teach multi-digit division
- How to apply estimating skills to multi-digit division problem practice
- When to have students use calculators
- How to use games to practice multiple math skills

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, educators will apply the following skills:

- Use templates and acting out to teach multi-digit division
- Teach fair share and partial quotient algorithm to division problems
- Apply estimating skills to multi-digit division problem practice
- Appropriately use calculators with division
- Use games to practice multiple math skills

Presenter’s Bio

Paul Lawrence has been involved in mathematics education for over forty years, teaching high school, working as a math supervisor for grades K-12, and lecturing part-time (as a visiting instructor) at Rutgers University. A past president of the Association of Math Teachers of New Jersey (AMTNJ), Lawrence has sat on committees to assess New Jersey state tests in mathematics. He is a frequent presenter at local, state, and national conferences, and he has conducted hundreds of workshops throughout the United States. Lawrence was named by AMTNJ as the Max Sobel Outstanding Mathematics Educator for 2000.

Methods of Instruction:

- Videos (presentations consisting of lecture, interviews, and classroom footage)
• Course handbook: *Discovery Based Mathematics: Teaching Elementary Mathematics Course 1*
• Reflection questions (open-ended questions in each unit that ask participants to reflect on the course content, their own practice, and their intentions for their practice)
• Quizzes (selected-response quizzes to assess understanding of the video presentations)

All steps listed under each topic must be completed to receive credit for the course. No partial credit is given.

**Plagiarism Policy**

KDS recognizes plagiarism as a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is the dishonest passing off of someone else’s work as one’s own and includes failing to cite sources for others’ ideas, copying material from books or the Internet, and handing in work written by someone other than the participant. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade and may have additional consequences. For more information about plagiarism and guidelines for appropriate citation, consult plagiarism.org.

**KDS Rubric for Pass/Fail Option: CEU**

**Passing Requirements:**

- 70 points or more
- No “unsatisfactory” in either category

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