

mathematical knowledge for teaching

mathematical knowledge for teaching is an essential foundation for educators aiming to effectively convey mathematical concepts to students. This specialized knowledge extends beyond mere content mastery, encompassing an understanding of how to present mathematics in ways that are accessible, meaningful, and engaging for diverse learners. Mathematical knowledge for teaching involves deep comprehension of mathematical ideas, pedagogical strategies tailored to mathematics education, and awareness of common student misconceptions. This article explores the critical components of mathematical knowledge for teaching, its significance in educational practice, and strategies for its development and application. The discussion also includes the role of teacher knowledge in shaping student outcomes and the intersection of curriculum, assessment, and instruction within mathematics education. The following sections provide a detailed overview of these dimensions.

- Understanding Mathematical Content Knowledge
- Pedagogical Content Knowledge in Mathematics
- Common Student Misconceptions and Addressing Them
- Developing Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching
- Application of Mathematical Knowledge in Classroom Instruction
- Impact on Student Learning and Achievement

Understanding Mathematical Content Knowledge

Mathematical content knowledge forms the backbone of mathematical knowledge for teaching. It comprises a thorough understanding of mathematical concepts, procedures, and structures relevant to the grade level being taught. This knowledge is not limited to rote memorization of formulas or algorithms but encompasses an ability to recognize the underlying principles that connect various mathematical ideas.

Depth versus Breadth of Content Knowledge

Teachers must balance depth and breadth in their mathematical knowledge. Depth refers to a profound understanding of specific mathematical topics, enabling teachers to explain concepts in multiple ways and anticipate student difficulties. Breadth involves familiarity with a wide range of mathematical topics to ensure coherence across the curriculum and facilitate connections between different areas of mathematics.

Mathematical Reasoning and Problem Solving

Proficiency in mathematical reasoning and problem solving is critical within mathematical content knowledge. Teachers should be capable of solving problems flexibly, justifying solutions logically, and modeling mathematical thinking processes to students. This skill set supports effective instruction and prepares students to engage in higher-order mathematical thinking.

Pedagogical Content Knowledge in Mathematics

Pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) is a specialized form of knowledge unique to teaching mathematics. It integrates knowledge of mathematical content with pedagogical strategies that facilitate student understanding. PCK encompasses knowledge of how to represent mathematical ideas effectively and how to adapt instruction to meet diverse learning needs.

Instructional Strategies for Mathematics

Effective instructional strategies within mathematical knowledge for teaching include the use of manipulatives, visual representations, and technology tools that make abstract concepts tangible. Teachers must also employ questioning techniques that stimulate critical thinking and elicit student reasoning.

Assessment and Feedback

Assessment practices are integral to PCK. Teachers need to design and interpret formative and summative assessments that accurately reflect student understanding. Providing timely, constructive feedback based on assessment results helps guide student learning and informs instructional adjustments.

Common Student Misconceptions and Addressing Them

Recognizing and addressing common student misconceptions is a vital aspect of mathematical knowledge for teaching. Misconceptions can hinder mathematical learning and lead to persistent errors if not correctly identified and remedied.

Examples of Misconceptions in Mathematics

Some frequent misconceptions include misunderstandings of place value, confusion between the operations of multiplication and division, or the belief that the equal sign always signals an answer rather than equality. Awareness of these helps teachers anticipate student errors and design targeted interventions.

Strategies to Address Misconceptions

- Use of Diagnostic Assessments to Identify Misconceptions
- Explicitly Addressing Incorrect Notions During Instruction
- Encouraging Mathematical Discourse to Challenge Erroneous Ideas
- Employing Conceptual Representations and Models

Developing Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching

Ongoing professional development is essential for cultivating and enhancing mathematical knowledge for teaching. This development involves formal education, collaborative learning, and reflective practice focused on both content and pedagogy.

Professional Learning Communities

Engagement in professional learning communities allows teachers to share experiences, analyze student work, and discuss instructional strategies collectively. Such collaboration fosters growth in mathematical knowledge and supports continuous improvement.

Role of Coursework and Workshops

Specialized coursework and workshops targeting mathematical knowledge for teaching provide structured opportunities to deepen understanding of mathematics and explore innovative pedagogical techniques. These programs often emphasize the connection between theory and classroom practice.

Application of Mathematical Knowledge in Classroom Instruction

The effective application of mathematical knowledge for teaching translates directly into classroom practices that enhance student learning. This includes lesson planning, instructional delivery, and classroom management tailored to mathematics education.

Lesson Planning and Curriculum Alignment

Teachers use their mathematical knowledge to design lessons that align with curriculum standards and learning objectives. Well-structured lessons incorporate clear explanations, varied representations, and opportunities for student engagement and practice.

Engaging Diverse Learners

Applying mathematical knowledge for teaching also involves differentiating instruction to accommodate diverse student needs, including English language learners and students with learning disabilities. Strategies include scaffolding, using multiple modalities, and providing enriched tasks for advanced learners.

Impact on Student Learning and Achievement

Research consistently demonstrates that teachers' mathematical knowledge for teaching significantly influences student achievement in mathematics. Deep teacher knowledge correlates with improved student understanding, higher test scores, and increased mathematical confidence.

Link Between Teacher Knowledge and Student Outcomes

Teachers equipped with robust mathematical knowledge can identify and address student difficulties more effectively, employ instructional strategies that promote conceptual understanding, and foster positive attitudes toward mathematics.

Continuous Improvement and Student Success

Mathematical knowledge for teaching is not static; it requires continual refinement to

keep pace with evolving educational standards and student needs. Ongoing development ultimately contributes to sustained improvements in student learning outcomes and long-term academic success.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT)?

Mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT) refers to the specialized content knowledge and pedagogical skills that teachers need to effectively teach mathematics. It includes understanding mathematical concepts deeply, knowing how students think about these concepts, and being able to represent and explain ideas in ways that promote learning.

Why is mathematical knowledge for teaching important for educators?

Mathematical knowledge for teaching is crucial because it enables educators to deliver content accurately, anticipate student misconceptions, design effective lessons, and provide meaningful explanations. Strong MKT improves student understanding and achievement in mathematics.

How can teachers develop their mathematical knowledge for teaching?

Teachers can develop their MKT through professional development programs focused on mathematics content and pedagogy, collaborative learning communities, reflective practice, engaging with research on mathematics education, and continuous study of mathematical concepts beyond the curriculum they teach.

What are the key components of mathematical knowledge for teaching?

Key components of MKT include common content knowledge (mathematics used in non-teaching contexts), specialized content knowledge (unique to teaching), knowledge of content and students (understanding how students learn and misunderstand mathematics), and knowledge of content and teaching (knowing how to present content effectively).

How does mathematical knowledge for teaching impact student learning outcomes?

Mathematical knowledge for teaching directly impacts student learning by influencing the quality of instruction. Teachers with strong MKT can create clearer explanations, design better tasks, identify and address errors, and adapt instruction to meet diverse student needs, leading to improved student engagement and achievement.

Additional Resources

1. *Mathematical Mindsets: Unleashing Students' Potential through Creative Math, Inspiring Messages, and Innovative Teaching*

This book by Jo Boaler explores how teachers can foster a growth mindset in students to enhance their mathematical learning. It provides practical strategies and activities to make math engaging and accessible. The book emphasizes the importance of encouraging students to see mistakes as learning opportunities.

2. *How to Teach Mathematics for Mastery*

Written by a team of experts from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), this book guides educators on implementing the mastery approach in math classrooms. It offers insights into lesson planning, assessment, and differentiation to help all students achieve deep understanding. The text is grounded in research and practical classroom examples.

3. *Number Talks: Helping Children Build Mental Math and Computation Strategies*

By Sherry Parrish, this book introduces the concept of number talks, short daily exercises that develop students' mental math skills and number sense. It provides guidance on facilitating discussions that encourage reasoning and problem-solving. Teachers learn how to create a classroom environment where math thinking is shared and valued.

4. *Teaching Mathematics in the Visible Learning Classroom, High School*

This book by John Almarode and colleagues connects John Hattie's Visible Learning research to math instruction. It offers evidence-based strategies to increase student engagement and achievement in high school math. The book includes practical tips, formative assessment techniques, and ways to develop mathematical understanding.

5. *The Art of Problem Solving: Teaching Strategies for the Advanced Mathematics Classroom*

Focusing on higher-level math education, this book provides tools and methods to teach problem-solving effectively. It emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and perseverance in tackling challenging math problems. The authors provide lesson plans and activities geared toward gifted and motivated students.

6. *Mathematics Formative Assessment: 75 Practical Strategies for Linking Assessment, Instruction, and Learning*

By Page Keeley and Cheryl Rose Tobey, this book offers a comprehensive collection of formative assessment techniques tailored for math teachers. It helps educators gather real-time data on student understanding to inform instruction. The strategies promote active learning and provide ways to address misconceptions promptly.

7. *Visible Learning for Mathematics, Grades K-12: What Works Best to Optimize Student Learning*

This resource synthesizes research on effective math teaching practices across all grade levels. It focuses on optimizing teaching methods to improve student outcomes using visible learning principles. The authors provide actionable advice and case studies demonstrating successful implementation.

8. *Teaching Mathematics Through Problem Solving: Grades 6-12*

This book encourages educators to center their instruction around problem-solving tasks

that promote deep mathematical thinking. It offers frameworks and sample lessons designed to engage middle and high school students. The approach helps learners develop reasoning skills and apply math concepts in diverse contexts.

9. *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All*

Published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), this book outlines essential teaching practices that support equity and excellence in math education. It highlights research-based principles and offers guidance for creating inclusive classrooms. The text is a foundational resource for educators aiming to improve math instruction systematically.

Mathematical Knowledge For Teaching

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mathematical knowledge for teaching: Mathematical Knowledge in Teaching Tim Rowland, Kenneth Ruthven, 2011-01-06 The quality of primary and secondary school mathematics teaching is generally agreed to depend crucially on the subject-related knowledge of the teacher. However, there is increasing recognition that effective teaching calls for distinctive forms of subject-related knowledge and thinking. Thus, established ways of conceptualizing, developing and assessing mathematical knowledge for teaching may be less than adequate. These are important issues for policy and practice because of longstanding difficulties in recruiting teachers who are confident and conventionally well-qualified in mathematics, and because of rising concern that teaching of the subject has not adapted sufficiently. The issues to be examined in Mathematical Knowledge in Teaching are of considerable significance in addressing global aspirations to raise standards of teaching and learning in mathematics by developing more effective approaches to characterizing, assessing and developing mathematical knowledge for teaching.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Understanding primary school teachers' mathematical knowledge for teaching Yasmin Sitabkhan, Aida Alikova, Nurgul Toktogulova, Adema Zholdoshibekova, Wendi Ralaingita, Jonathan Stern, 2025-05-13 We present the results from an exploratory study that aimed to measure teachers' specialized knowledge in early mathematics during a pilot of an educational intervention using the Foundational Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching (FMKT) survey. The survey was administered to 323 teachers in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021. We delve into survey results at two timepoints (pre- and post-intervention) to showcase the areas in which the intervention was successful and identify ongoing challenges in teacher knowledge. We found that the FMKT provided detailed, specific information on teacher learning and is an example of one way to center teacher knowledge in an instructional intervention.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Mathematical Understanding for Secondary Teaching M. Kathleen Heid, Patricia S. Wilson, Glendon W. Blume, 2015-12-01 A perennial discussion about teacher development is the optimal content background for teachers. In recent years, that discussion has taken center stage in the work of mathematics education researchers, mathematicians, mathematics professional developers, and mathematics education policymakers. Much of the existing and prior work in this area has been directed toward mathematical knowledge for teaching at the elementary level. The work described in this volume takes a sometimes-neglected approach,

focusing on the dynamic nature of mathematical understanding rather than on a stable description of mathematical knowledge, and on mathematics for secondary teaching rather than mathematics for teaching at the elementary level. The work reported in *Mathematical Understanding for Secondary Teaching: A Framework and Classroom-Based Situations* is a practice-based response to the question of what mathematical understandings secondary teachers could productively use in their teaching. For each of more than 50 events, our team of almost 50 mathematics educators who were experienced mathematics teachers developed descriptions of the mathematics that teachers could use—each of those descriptions (consisting of the event and the mathematics related to the event) is what we call a Situation. We developed our Framework for Mathematical Understanding for Secondary Teaching (MUST) based on an analysis of our entire set of Situations. We call the work practice-based because the MUST framework is based on actual events that we witnessed in our observations of secondary mathematics practice. Groups of mathematics teachers can use this volume to enhance their own understandings of secondary mathematics. School leaders and professional developers in secondary mathematics will find our MUST Framework and Situations useful as they work with teachers in enhancing and deepening their understanding of secondary mathematics. Mathematics teacher educators and mathematicians who teach mathematics to prospective and in-service secondary teachers will be able to couch their mathematical discussions in the Situations—examples that arise from secondary mathematics classrooms. They will be able to use this volume as they design courses and programs that enhance mathematics from the perspectives identified in the MUST framework. Policymakers and researchers can use our MUST framework as they consider the mathematics background needed by teachers.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Forms of Mathematical Knowledge Dina Tirosh, 1999-11-30 What mathematics is entailed in knowing to act in a moment? Is tacit, rhetorical knowledge significant in mathematics education? What is the role of intuitive models in understanding, learning and teaching mathematics? Are there differences between elementary and advanced mathematical thinking? Why can't students prove? What are the characteristics of teachers' ways of knowing? This book focuses on various types of knowledge that are significant for learning and teaching mathematics. The first part defines, discusses and contrasts psychological, philosophical and didactical issues related to various types of knowledge involved in the learning of mathematics. The second part describes ideas about forms of mathematical knowledge that are important for teachers to know and ways of implementing such ideas in preservice and in-service education. The chapters provide a wide overview of current thinking about mathematics learning and teaching which is of interest for researchers in mathematics education and mathematics educators. Topics covered include the role of intuition in mathematics learning and teaching, the growth from elementary to advanced mathematical thinking, the significance of genres and rhetoric for the learning of mathematics and the characterization of teachers' ways of knowing.

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However, there is increasing recognition that effective teaching calls for distinctive forms of subject-related knowledge and thinking. Thus, established ways of conceptualizing, developing and assessing mathematical knowledge for teaching may be less than adequate. These are important issues for policy and practice because of longstanding difficulties in recruiting teachers who are confident and conventionally well-qualified in mathematics, and because of rising concern that teaching of the subject has not adapted sufficiently. The issues to be examined in Mathematical Knowledge in Teaching are of considerable significance in addressing global aspirations to raise standards of teaching and learning in mathematics by developing more effective approaches to characterizing, assessing and developing mathematical knowledge for teaching.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching Proof

Kristin Lesseig, 2011 The purpose of this study was to detail mathematical knowledge that supports the work of teaching proof and to investigate how such knowledge is evidenced in professional development (PD). To advance the construct of mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT) in the context of proof, I developed a framework of MKT for proof by documenting classroom proof activity and student and teachers' understanding of proof in coordination with Ball and colleagues' (2008) domains of teacher knowledge. The framework specifies ways in which teachers hold their knowledge of proof across domains of common and specialized content knowledge as well as knowledge of students and teaching. This MKT for proof framework supported an empirical study of teachers' proof activity within an existing PD project, Researching Mathematics Leader Learning (RMLL). Specifically, this dissertation details teachers' work on two proof-related tasks in RMLL seminars and subsequent PD sessions case study teachers enacted. Findings indicate how the two tasks engaged teachers in different though complementary aspects of MKT for proof. These findings resulted in the refinement of the MKT for proof framework and demonstrated its utility in linking PD activities to domains of teacher knowledge. For example, activities in which participants were prompted to compare or evaluate justifications afforded opportunities to develop specialized knowledge of proof representations and argument structures. Comparing the use of the same tasks across seminars and PD enactments allowed for a more detailed description of MKT for proof afforded by each task. This comparison highlighted how the specific goals and context of these PD sessions led to the foregrounding of different aspects of MKT for proof. For example, knowledge of proof and students (e.g. considering algebraic representations that might be accessible to students) was more evident when tasks were linked to particular grade level concerns. PD is a primary means for teachers to both enhance their own understanding of proof and to develop the knowledge and skills needed to engage students in rich proof experiences (Knuth, 2002; Sowder, 2007). This study offers significant insights on how PD might support such learning and provides a valuable analytic tool for further investigation of mathematical knowledge specifically useable in teaching proof.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Developing Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching

Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio, 2015-07-13 The two research questions that frame the research in this book are (1) How do preservice teachers develop mathematical knowledge for teaching during a coordinated math methods course and field experience? and (2) What types of portfolio tasks lend themselves to documenting mathematical knowledge in teaching? Six female elementary (K-8) teacher candidates were the participants in this research. The six teacher candidates all completed their field experiences in the same K-8 school, St. Joseph, in Lockport, Illinois. Three of the teacher candidates had elementary placements (grades K, 1, and 4) and three of the teacher candidates had middle school placements (5, 6, and 7). Each of the teacher candidates completed pre-test and post-test DTAMS assessments. All candidates taught three consecutive mathematics lessons. After each lesson was taught, a debriefing interview was conducted. Each teacher candidate submitted a Math Teaching Portfolio. Results illustrated the growth of mathematical knowledge for teaching that occurred for each participant. Implications for the field of mathematics education, future research, and teacher preparation programs are also discussed.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Mathematical Knowledge: Its Growth Through Teaching Alan Bishop, Stieg Mellin-Olsen, Joop van Dormolen, 2013-11-27 In the first BACOMET

volume different perspectives on issues concerning teacher education in mathematics were presented (B. Christiansen, A. G. Howson and M. Otte, *Perspectives on Mathematics Education*, Reidel, Dordrecht, 1986). Underlying all of them was the fundamental problem area of the relationships between mathematical knowledge and the teaching and learning processes. The subsequent project BACOMET 2, whose outcomes are presented in this book, continued this work, especially by focusing on the genesis of mathematical knowledge in the classroom. The book developed over the period 1985-9 through several meetings, much discussion and considerable writing and redrafting. Our major concern was to try to analyse what we considered to be the most significant aspects of the relationships in order to enable mathematics educators to be better able to handle the kinds of complex issues facing all mathematics educators as we approach the end of the twentieth century. With access to mathematics education widening all the time, with a multitude of new materials and resources being available each year, with complex cultural and social interactions creating a fluctuating context of education, with all manner of technology becoming more and more significant, and with both informal education (through media of different kinds) and non formal education (courses of training etc.) growing apace, the nature of formal mathematical education is increasingly needing analysis.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: The Language of Mathematics Patrick M. Jenlink, 2020-02-04 *The Language of Mathematics: How the Teacher's Knowledge of Mathematics Affects Instruction* introduces the reader to a collection of thoughtful works by authors that represent current thinking about mathematics teacher preparation. The book provides the reader with current and relevant knowledge concerning preparation of mathematics teachers. The complexity of teaching mathematics is undeniable and all too often ignored in the preparation of teachers with substantive mathematical content knowledge and mathematical teaching knowledge. That said, this book has a focus on the substantive knowledge and the relevant pedagogy required for preparing teachers to enter classrooms to teach mathematics in K-12 school settings. Each chapter focuses on the preparation of teachers who will enter classrooms to instruct the next generation of students in mathematics. Chapter One opens the book with a focus on the language and knowledge of mathematics teaching. The authors of Chapters Two-Nine present field-based research that examines the complexities of content and pedagogical knowledge as well as knowledge for teaching. Each chapter offers the reader an examination of mathematics teacher preparation and practice based on formal research that provides the reader with insight into how the research study was conducted as well as providing the findings and conclusions drawn with respect to mathematics teacher preparation and practice. Finally, Chapter 10 presents an epilogue that focuses on the future of mathematics teacher preparation.

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mathematical knowledge for teaching: How Chinese Acquire and Improve Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching Yeping Li, Rongjin Huang, 2018-05-16 While the importance of knowledge for effective instruction has long been acknowledged, and the concept and structure of mathematics knowledge for teaching are far from being new, the process of such knowledge acquisition and improvement remains underexplored empirically and theoretically. The difficulty can well associate with the fact that different education systems embody different values for what mathematics teachers need to learn and how they can be assisted to develop their knowledge. To

improve this situation with needed consideration about a system context and policies, *How Chinese Acquire and Improve Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching* takes a unique approach to present new research that views knowledge acquisition and improvement as part of teachers' life-long professional learning process in China. The book includes such chapters that can help readers to make possible connections of teachers' mathematical knowledge for teaching in China with educational policies and program structures for mathematics teacher education in that system context. *How Chinese Acquire and Improve Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching* brings invaluable inspirations and insights to mathematics educators and teacher educators who wish to help teachers improve their knowledge, and to researchers who study this important topic beyond a static knowledge conception.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: The Language of Mathematics Patrick M. Jenlink, 2020-02-04 *The Language of Mathematics: How the Teacher's Knowledge of Mathematics Affects Instruction* introduces the reader to a collection of thoughtful works by authors that represent current thinking about mathematics teacher preparation. The book provides the reader with current and relevant knowledge concerning preparation of mathematics teachers. The complexity of teaching mathematics is undeniable and all too often ignored in the preparation of teachers with substantive mathematical content knowledge and mathematical teaching knowledge. That said, this book has a focus on the substantive knowledge and the relevant pedagogy required for preparing teachings to enter classrooms to teach mathematics in K-12 school settings. Each chapter focuses on the preparation of teachers who will enter classrooms to instruct the next generation of students in mathematics. Chapter One opens the book with a focus on the language and knowledge of mathematics teaching. The authors of Chapters Two-Nine present field-based research that examines the complexities of content and pedagogical knowledge as well as knowledge for teaching. Each chapter offers the reader an examination of mathematics teacher preparation and practice based on formal research that provides the reader with insight into how the research study was conducted as well as providing the findings and conclusions drawn with respect to mathematics teacher preparation and practice. Finally, Chapter 10 presents an epilogue that focuses on the future of mathematics teacher preparation.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Research Trends in Mathematics Teacher Education Jane-Jane Lo, Keith R. Leatham, Laura R. Van Zoest, 2014-05-28 *Research on the preparation and continued development of mathematics teachers is becoming an increasingly important subset of mathematics education research. Such research explores the attributes, knowledge, skills and beliefs of mathematics teachers as well as methods for assessing and developing these critical aspects of teachers and influences on teaching. Research Trends in Mathematics Teacher Education focuses on three major themes in current mathematics teacher education research: mathematical knowledge for teaching, teacher beliefs and identities, and tools and techniques to support teacher learning. Through careful reports of individual research studies and cross-study syntheses of the state of research in these areas, the book provides insights into teachers' learning processes and how these processes can be harnessed to develop effective teachers. Chapters investigate bedrock skills needed for working with primary and secondary learners (writing relevant problems, planning lessons, being attentive to student learning) and illustrate how knowledge can be accessed, assessed, and nurtured over the course of a teaching career. Commentaries provide context for current research while identifying areas deserving future study. Included among the topics: Teachers' curricular knowledge Teachers' personal and classroom mathematics Teachers' learning journeys toward reasoning and sense-making Teachers' transitions in noticing Teachers' uses of a learning trajectory as a tool for mathematics lesson planning A unique and timely set of perspectives on the professional development of mathematics teachers at all stages of their careers, Research Trends in Mathematics Teacher Education brings clarity and practical advice to researchers as well as practitioners in this increasingly critical arena.*

mathematical knowledge for teaching: An Exploration of Pre-service Elementary Teachers' Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching Michael Jarry-Shore, 2016 *Abstract* Mathematical knowledge

for teaching, or MKT, is a critically important knowledge of mathematics unique to teachers and teaching. One aspect of MKT, specialized content knowledge (SCK), involves the ability to interpret nonstandard student solutions, represent relevant mathematical content non-symbolically, and explain standard math algorithms (Ball, Thames, & Phelps, 2008). A number of measures are currently available to those seeking to assess teachers' SCK, and still, this knowledge domain has yet to be fully mapped (Hill, 2010, p. 537). Nowhere is this lack of mapping more apparent than among pre-service teachers, who, due to a lack of teaching experience, are likely to exhibit SCK that is markedly different from that displayed by their in-service counterparts (Hill, 2010). Teacher practices and dispositions, while not a part of existing frameworks for SCK, are likely to play a key role in shaping the nature of this unique mathematical knowledge. This study sought to examine the nature of 11 pre-service teachers' specialized content knowledge, practices, and dispositions through the use of hour-long structured interviews (Ginsburg, Jacobs, & Lopez, 1998). In each interview, study participants were asked to interpret non-standard student solutions to two math problems, one involving a comparison of fractions and another involving multi-digit multiplication. Data gathered in this study indicate that pre-service teachers, unlike experienced teaching professionals, require greater support in two key aspects of SCK: generating non-symbolic representations and interpreting non-standard student solutions (Hill, 2007; Hill, 2010). Additionally, it would appear as though pre-service teachers would benefit from efforts to foster a flexible disposition, as such flexibility appears to augment one's specialized content knowledge (Hill, Dean & Goffney, 2007). The results of this study will inform teacher educators, who must make difficult choices when deciding how to design courses so as to make efficient use of what little time they are given to prepare pre-service teachers (Ball, Sleep, Boerst, & Bass, 2009; Hill, 2010; Kajander, 2010). Keywords: mathematical knowledge for teaching, specialized content knowledge, disposition, pre-service teacher --

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Knowing and Learning Mathematics for Teaching National Research Council, Mathematical Sciences Education Board, Center for Education, Mathematics Teacher Preparation Content Workshop Program Steering Committee, 2001-01-25 There are many questions about the mathematical preparation teachers need. Recent recommendations from a variety of sources state that reforming teacher preparation in postsecondary institutions is central in providing quality mathematics education to all students. The Mathematics Teacher Preparation Content Workshop examined this problem by considering two central questions: What is the mathematical knowledge teachers need to know in order to teach well? How can teachers develop the mathematical knowledge they need to teach well? The Workshop activities focused on using actual acts of teaching such as examining student work, designing tasks, or posing questions, as a medium for teacher learning. The Workshop proceedings, Knowing and Learning Mathematics for Teaching, is a collection of the papers presented, the activities, and plenary sessions that took place.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: A Study of Pre-kindergarten Teachers' Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching Jae Eun Lee, 2011 This dissertation investigates the ways in which pre-k teachers understood the math content that they were to teach and their math instruction. To investigate this, a qualitative case study examining five pre-k teachers was conducted. Data sources included observation field notes, teacher interviews, and documents such as state and district pre-k guidelines. The findings from this dissertation suggest that pre-k teachers' knowledge entails both knowledge of subject matter and pedagogical content knowledge. In addition, this study identified what these pre-k teachers knew about math and teaching/learning math as well as what they still needed to know to provide high quality and effective math instruction. Chapter 1 introduces my research question and important terms, such as mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT). Chapter 2 synthesizes relevant literature in the area of effective math instruction, theoretical framework of teachers' mathematical knowledge for teaching and early mathematics education. The literature review seeks to highlight the importance of early childhood teachers' deep understanding of mathematical content and of their math instruction. Chapter 3 forwards the specific conceptual

framework for this study while detailing the methodology that guided this investigation including data gathering and analysis. Chapter 4 presents the findings from this research. It examines pre-k teachers' understanding of mathematical content that they are to teach and their knowledge of how to teach mathematics. Chapter 5 addresses the significance of these two major findings. First, I discuss the four types of mathematical knowledge and skills that these pre-k teachers possess. I also compare and contrast them with the teacher knowledge examined in the literature. Then, by examining research literature on early math education, I suggest what mathematical knowledge and skills they still need to attain to offer high-quality and effective math instruction. This dissertation concludes with a discussion of implication for teachers, teacher educators, and suggestions for future research.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: An Exploratory Study of Teachers' Use of Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching to Support Mathematical Argumentation in Middle-grades Classrooms Hee-Joon Kim, 2011 Mathematical argumentation is fundamental to doing mathematics and developing new knowledge. Working from the view that mathematical argumentation is also integral mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT) to support student participation in mathematical argumentation. Classroom observations were made of three case-study teachers' implementation of a three-day curriculum unit on mathematical argumentation and supplemented with paper and pencil assessments of teachers' MKT. Teaching moves, or teachers' actions directed toward supporting argumentation, were identified as a unit of discourse in which MKT-in-action appeared. Teachers' MKT showed up in three types of teaching moves including: Revoicing by Reformulation, Responding to Student Difficulties, and Pressing for Generalization in Defining. MKT that was evident in these moves included knowledge of core information in argument, heuristic methods, and formulation of mathematical definition through and in argumentation. Findings highlight that supporting mathematical argumentation requires teachers to have a sophisticated understanding of the subject matter as well as how concepts develop through argumentation. Findings have limitations in understanding complex teaching practices by considering MKT as a single factor. The study has implications on teacher learning and MKT assessments.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Eliciting Elementary Preservice Teachers' Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching Using Instructional Tasks that Include Children's Mathematical Thinking Lauren Lee Goggins, 2008 A challenge that teacher educators face is how to determine if teacher preparation programs provide preservice teachers with opportunities to develop the mathematical knowledge that teachers use in their practice. This qualitative, interpretive study examines the mathematical knowledge for teaching that four preservice teachers exhibited when they engaged in a set of three instructional tasks that included children's mathematical thinking and were designed to replicate the work of teaching mathematics. Each task largely elicits a different kind of mathematical knowledge for teaching from preservice teachers. In addition, the formats of the children's mathematical thinking examples influence the mathematical knowledge for teaching that is elicited from preservice teachers by the complete set of instructional tasks. This study informs teacher educators how instruction in teacher preparation programs and professional development programs can be developed to measure mathematical knowledge for teaching. And, it advances the current understanding of the mathematical knowledge that is needed in the work of teaching mathematics.

mathematical knowledge for teaching: Refining the Mathematics Knowledge Base Bindu Elizabeth Pothan, 2011 Understanding the knowledge that teachers must bring to their classrooms is critical to the advancement of the field of teacher education. Understanding how teacher knowledge impacts various aspects of teacher practice is also critical. Understanding the interplay between teacher knowledge and practice, and consequently the result that this relationship has on student learning is most important. This dissertation attempts to advance our collective understanding of the complex relationship between teacher knowledge, teacher practice, and student learning in the field of elementary mathematics. Four third-grade teachers were followed as

they taught a subset of lessons in a unit on fractions. The study first investigates the types of knowledge that the teachers brought to their classrooms. Then, an examination is conducted of the way in which these types of knowledge impacted their teaching practice. Finally, the student learning that resulted over the course of these lessons is discussed. This study supports the widespread belief that teacher knowledge is important to instruction. The descriptions of the case study teachers highlight that their varying levels of knowledge resulted in unique aspects of practice being emphasized in their classrooms. This dissertation documents the differences in teaching practice and the trade-offs that produce differences in student learning. Interesting student learning patterns emerged, based on qualitative student interviews. Medium students from classrooms in which teachers focused for more sustained periods on mathematical concepts seemed to demonstrate greater procedural fluency and deeper conceptual understanding than their peers in the other classrooms. Low students in classrooms where fluency was the focus seemed to show slightly greater procedural fluency, though less conceptual understanding, than their peers in the classrooms that spent more time on concepts. High students showed no appreciable difference across all classrooms. This study adds to the field by introducing a new construct, the conceptual threshold, to offer an explanation of these student learning trends.

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