

Reasearch Question: How can I support students who are below a 3rd grade level to excel in math?

To help support students who are below grade level in my mathematics classroom my initial thought was to provide students with a chart of words that signal different operations. At first I thought it wasn't a bad idea, but one article I read mentioned how there are times where the words are used in a different context and if students don't understand what's actually going on in the word problem they can still get the wrong answers. After seeing that article, I started to research different strategies to support my students in my math classroom. For one strategy I found, I would read a word problem aloud and if students get the correct answer when the problem is read aloud, but not when reading the problem on their own then it could possibly be a challenge with reading. Therefore, one strategy I can use is providing reading assistance for the whole class just so that everyone can follow along. Another strategy would be to teach students how to draw or model the problems. Visual models can help students interpret the numbers that are in a problem and organize information properly.

After careful consideration, I have decided to use the word problem strategy SOLVE to help my students below grade level in math. SOLVE stands for: **S**tudy the problem (underline the question), **O**rganize the facts, **L**ine up a problem, **V**erify with action, and **E**xamine your results. There are many different acronyms that can be used to help students understand how to break down and solve tricky word problems, but having just one acronym students can rely on throughout the year can be very beneficial. If every time students come across a word problem they use the step by step SOLVE strategy to pull out the important information within the problem, it will become a routine and with practice students will make less errors when solving problems.