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EECE 350

Professor Sugarman

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Research Question and Justification

a) How can I help my students become better word-problem solvers?

b) This question is important to me because I noticed that every student in my student teaching placement is learning English as a second language. Some students are pretty good at solving word problems, but there are some students that are still struggling in solving word problems. In my student teaching class, I have graded a few exams from the students, including two math tests, and I noticed the same students struggling more than the others. So based on this observation, I assume they need more help in breaking down and understanding what the problems are actually asking them to do. To collect the data, I would observe a small group of students that are struggling and behind.

c) To create an intervention, I would learn new strategies from this course, research other methods, and even learn what my cooperating teacher usually do. Based on my cooperating teacher's experience, she have been teaching for around 10 years and she always get students who are ELLs because she is also an ESL teacher herself. I learned some methods on what students are using so far, for example, the CUBE strategy for 4th graders and it looks helpful for most students. I hope to learn more from her, our teaching mathematics course, and other resources to improve and create an intervention.

d) To see if my plan had created improvements for these students, I would use self-assessment scale to check in how well they are understanding the lesson and I would also include turn & talk where they can work with their partners to see if they can also help each other out. I would go around to see their work in how well they are doing. Besides turn & talk, students can also use their whiteboards to show their work in how they solve the problem too, and this way, I can keep track in which students would slowly improve or not in sharing their work. These are some formative assessments I would provide.

Some summative assessments I would implement are looking how well they do on their tests for each unit they learned. Just like how I observe their past two math tests, I would continue to do that to see if there are any improvements or look at what else they are struggling in. I would sometimes use exit slips to see if they are understanding the lesson and using the strategies they learned.