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Math Night Reflections

When I heard that we were doing math nights the first thought that came to my mind is I am really nervous. I have never done anything like this and I honestly had no idea what to expect. I was also worried if the kids were going to like my activities or if I would be the game that no one wanted to come to. But in the end both math nights were extremely fun and they both seemed to go by super fast.

The first math night was for A.L. Lotts and Bluegrass Elementary Schools. We set up math activities for the students to complete while their parents attended a PTA meeting. The first math activity I had with the children was Angry Birds. It was a very popular station. I had a continuous line waiting on children to play the game. The game was set up in a box. There were wooden building blocks that were already glued down in the box. Then there were extra pieces that could be set up in the box for the children to try to knock down. There was also a clear ball that hung from a string that the children were trying to hit to knock the pig out of. The children used a fake slingshot to try to hit the pigs. There were 3 pigs set up in the angry birds game. The goal was for the child to knock them all down in three tries. They put each bird in the slingshot, and then tossed the birds at the box to try to knock down the pigs. Most of the children were able to knock the pigs down at first. So I decided to get tape and placed the line further back from the box to make it more challenging for the children. This accomplished my goal and it did make it more challenging. The only problem I had with this activity was the children asking me what it had to do with math. To be honest, I wasn’t sure at first. But one idea I came up with was accuracy and strategy. Another was to be able to count the pigs and birds so you know when you win and when the game I was over.

The second activity I completed that night was Polygon Crossing. This was also a very popular game for the children. The point of the game was to roll a number cube. Once you knew the number you had to look at the poster and figure out which carpet shape you would lay down on the floor. There were 5 different carpet shapes that included square, triangle, rectangle, parallelogram, and hexagon. If the students rolled a six they got to take a carpet piece from another player or team and add it to their line of carpet pieces.

The second math night was at Linden Elementary School in Oak Ridge. I enjoyed this math night more than the first math night. I liked that we were able to go into our own classroom to complete our activity. I did the Polygon Crossing again at Linden and the same rules applied as the first math night when I played the game. The teacher that helped me was really fun and full of energy, which made our game even more entertaining. The kids seemed to really enjoy our game. This time the parents were even getting into the game and playing against their children. The atmosphere was full of learning and energy, which made the time pass by really quickly. The children got to work towards treat bags and door prizes. I think that made it more meaningful to the students to attend math night. This was much more organized which made the night go a lot smoother than the math night that we did at A.L. Lotts and Bluegrass. If asked again I would love to do another math night for the children.