Making math fun for math-phobic children

by

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Abstract: The United States lags many developing countries in educational performance, particularly in our education of children of underrepresented minorities and children from families of lower socioeconomic status. Local funding for schools is part of the problem as students from low-income families disproportionately attend poorly funded schools, however, local funding does not explain why these children perform poorly in all schools. In Oberlin, Ohio children from all backgrounds attend the same K-12 schools, yet the achievement gap persists. Motivation, especially intrinsic motivation, drives educational achievement. The Du Bois Project helps underrepresented minorities and children from low socioeconomic families achieve and maintain excellence in the Oberlin Public Schools by helping them learn to enjoy math. We will explain how we use running, music, simple psychology and motivated Oberlin College students to make math fun.

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