

orton gillingham math curriculum

Orton Gillingham Math Curriculum is an educational approach rooted in the principles of the Orton-Gillingham method, typically known for its effectiveness in teaching reading and language skills to students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. However, the application of Orton-Gillingham principles has expanded into various subjects, including mathematics. This article delves into the Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum, exploring its foundational concepts, methodologies, and benefits for diverse learners.

Understanding the Orton-Gillingham Approach

The Orton-Gillingham approach is a structured, multisensory teaching method designed to help students with learning differences. It emphasizes the following key principles:

- **Multisensory Learning:** The curriculum incorporates visual, auditory, and kinesthetic elements to enhance understanding and retention.
- **Structured and Sequential:** Lessons are organized in a logical sequence that builds on prior knowledge.
- **Individualized Instruction:** Teaching is tailored to each student's unique needs, abilities, and learning pace.
- **Explicit Teaching:** Concepts are taught directly and explicitly, ensuring clarity and comprehension.

These principles, originally designed for reading, can be effectively translated into mathematics education, addressing the unique challenges faced by students who struggle with conventional math instruction.

The Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum Framework

The Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum is built on the same foundation as its reading counterpart, focusing on the integration of multisensory techniques into mathematical concepts. This framework typically includes:

1. Conceptual Understanding

The curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of mathematical concepts rather than rote memorization. Students explore mathematical ideas through various approaches, using manipulatives, visual aids, and real-life applications to develop a solid foundation.

2. Multisensory Techniques

To cater to different learning styles, the curriculum utilizes multisensory techniques that engage students in varied ways:

- Visual Aids: Charts, diagrams, and color-coded materials help students visualize mathematical relationships.
- Manipulatives: Physical objects (like blocks, counters, or geometric shapes) allow students to experiment and explore mathematical concepts hands-on.
- Auditory Components: Discussions, songs, and verbal explanations reinforce learning through listening and speaking.

3. Structured Lessons

The curriculum is organized into structured lessons that gradually introduce new concepts. Each lesson typically follows a consistent format, allowing students to anticipate what comes next, which can reduce anxiety and increase engagement. This structure generally includes:

- Review of Previous Content: Revisiting prior topics helps reinforce learning and build connections.
- Introduction of New Concepts: Clear explanations and demonstrations introduce new mathematical ideas.
- Guided Practice: Students engage in exercises with support from the instructor to practice new skills.
- Independent Practice: Opportunities for individual work reinforce learning and allow for assessment of understanding.

4. Assessment and Feedback

Frequent assessments are integral to the Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum. These assessments help educators gauge student progress and identify areas needing further support. Feedback is immediate and constructive, guiding students on their learning journey.

Benefits of the Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum

Implementing the Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum offers several benefits, particularly for students with learning differences:

1. Improved Engagement

The multisensory approach fosters greater engagement, making math more enjoyable and accessible for students who may otherwise feel overwhelmed or disinterested. By incorporating hands-on activities and visual aids, students can see the relevance of math in their everyday lives.

2. Enhanced Understanding

By focusing on conceptual understanding rather than memorization, students develop a deeper grasp of mathematical principles. This understanding not only aids in current learning but also lays a strong foundation for future mathematical endeavors.

3. Increased Confidence

As students experience success through individualized instruction and structured lessons, their confidence in their mathematical abilities grows. This increase in self-esteem can lead to a more positive attitude toward learning in general.

4. Support for Diverse Learners

The curriculum is particularly beneficial for students with dyscalculia, ADHD, and other learning difficulties. Its tailored approach ensures that all students receive the support they need to succeed, promoting inclusivity in the classroom.

Implementation Strategies

To effectively implement the Orton-Gillingham Math Curriculum, educators can adopt several strategies:

1. Professional Development

Teachers should engage in professional development to understand the principles of the Orton-Gillingham approach and how to apply them in math instruction. Workshops, online courses, and training sessions can provide valuable insights and tools.

2. Collaborate with Specialists

Collaboration with special education teachers or reading specialists can enhance the effectiveness of the curriculum. These professionals can provide additional strategies and resources to support diverse learners.

3. Use of Technology

Incorporating technology can enhance the learning experience. Educational software and apps that align with the Orton-Gillingham principles can provide interactive and engaging opportunities for practice and reinforcement.

4. Foster a Growth Mindset

Encouraging a growth mindset in students is crucial. Emphasizing effort and progress over perfection helps students view challenges as opportunities for learning and growth, reducing anxiety about math.

Conclusion

The **Orton Gillingham Math Curriculum** offers a unique and effective approach to mathematics education, particularly for students who face challenges with traditional instruction. By leveraging multisensory techniques, structured lessons, and individualized support, this curriculum fosters a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, enhances engagement, and builds confidence. As educators embrace the principles of the Orton-Gillingham approach in math, they create a more inclusive and effective learning environment that empowers all students to succeed. By investing in professional development and utilizing collaboration and technology, schools can ensure that every child receives the support they need to thrive in mathematics and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

The Orton-Gillingham math curriculum is an instructional approach designed to help individuals with learning differences, particularly dyslexia, learn mathematical concepts through a multisensory method that incorporates visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning.

How does the Orton-Gillingham approach apply to math education?

The Orton-Gillingham approach applies to math education by using structured, sequential lessons that build on prior knowledge while integrating various learning styles to enhance understanding and retention of mathematical concepts.

Who can benefit from the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

Students with dyslexia, dyscalculia, or other learning disabilities can benefit from the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum, as it provides tailored instruction that meets their unique learning needs.

What are some key components of the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

Key components include explicit instruction, multisensory techniques, systematic sequencing of skills, frequent review and practice, and individualized pacing to support each learner's needs.

Is the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum suitable for all grade levels?

Yes, the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum can be adapted for all grade levels, from early elementary through high school, ensuring that instruction meets the developmental and cognitive levels of each student.

How does the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum address misconceptions in math?

The Orton-Gillingham math curriculum addresses misconceptions by providing direct instruction, opportunities for guided practice, and ongoing assessment to identify and correct errors in understanding.

Can teachers without a special education background implement the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

Yes, teachers can implement the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum with proper training and resources, as the approach emphasizes clear structures and strategies that can be learned and utilized by general education teachers.

What resources are available for implementing the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

Resources include specialized training programs, instructional materials, lesson plans, and online courses designed to help educators understand and apply the Orton-Gillingham method in math instruction.

How does the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum enhance student engagement?

The curriculum enhances student engagement by incorporating hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and real-world applications that make learning mathematics enjoyable and relevant to students.

Are there any research studies supporting the effectiveness of the Orton-Gillingham math curriculum?

Yes, various studies indicate that the Orton-Gillingham approach is effective in improving math skills for students with learning difficulties, as it focuses on individualized instruction and employs multisensory techniques.

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