

Foreword

Math workshop provides differentiated instruction for students and offers them engaging learning experiences that promote mathematical thinking, discourse, and a positive disposition toward mathematics. Mistakes are a part of the process in math workshop, and teachers and students alike view these mistakes as important in the learning process. Math workshop decreases anxiety by creating a safe and engaging environment where students enjoy working with numbers, persevere through the toughest of problems, and respect one another. When students no longer feel anxiety, their engagement increases and they see themselves as capable problem solvers.

This resource, as part of the Math Workshop Essentials series, gives educators valuable guidance for beginning their math workshop journeys. It offers routines, lessons, and games that increase engagement and are high quality, meaningful, and thoughtful. The content is timeless and easily fits into the three structures of math workshop that I encourage educators to use. In addition, Bresser and Holtzman’s resource doesn’t just “feed” readers step-by-step directions; the authors have taken the time to share insightful experiences they have had teaching each and every activity. They instill the confidence that you too can jump into math workshop! The number sense routines, focus lessons, and learning stations can be used time and time again. The descriptions, directions, and examples are friendly and accessible for teachers of all levels of experience with mathematics. By making these activities part of your math instruction, you will see the power that quality mathematics teaching has on student engagement.

Every teacher who reads this resource has a way to get started with the math workshop model today. When we know better, we do better. And the ideas in Bresser and Holtzman’s resource help us all know better by providing us practical activities to do with students. We all got into education with one priority in mind—the student. These authors enthusiastically share that same philosophy and put students at the heart of their work.

—Jennifer Lempp, author of *Math Workshop: Five Steps to Implementing Guided Math, Learning Stations, Reflection, and More*

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