

ZMATH 2015f.01042

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Learning to use new technologies – embrace those lesson hiccups!

Math. Teach. (Derby) 235, 34-36 (2013).

Summary: The author develops an understanding of the unintended consequences of introducing new technologies to the mathematics classroom. The mathematics classroom is a dynamic environment where the unexpected is normal. Coping with the unexpected is what mathematics teachers do, seemingly by deploying strategies from their established classroom toolkit. However add technologies to the classroom mix and suddenly things are very different. This is because the unexpected associated with new technologies is also unanticipated through lack of experience. This combination is a feature of all professional development, but when technology is involved somehow the anti is more than just ‘upped’!

Classification: U73 D73

Keywords: lower secondary; discovery learning; learning problems; information technology; ICT tools; media technology; mathematical software; handheld computers; calculators; computer as educational medium; student activities; generalisation; surprises; unanticipated moments in teaching; hiccup types; research; unanticipated responses; perturbations; student errors; student difficulties; error messages; enigmatic feedback; instrumentation process; graph of a function