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Learning linear relationships through independent use of the mathematics textbook.

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Summary: This paper discusses the participation of one grade 8 student in a typical Swedish mathematics class as she tried to learn independently about linear relationships, mainly through the mathematics textbook. Since this set-up has the possibility for every student to progress at different rates, only one student, through data from ten consecutive lessons, was considered. Results from an analysis of this student's use of the textbook showed that the textbook is used independently more as an instrument for learning mathematics rather than an object of learning mathematics. However, further studies are required to determine the extent of learning and the development of mathematical skills.

Classification: D43 I23 C33 U23

Keywords: textbooks; independent learning; linear relationships