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The geometry of scoliosis.

Teach. Child. Math. 21, No. 6, 372-375 (2015).

From the text: Science and mathematics often go hand-in-hand. Using scoliosis as a context, intermediate elementary school students can explore how geometry, specifically angle measurement, plays an important role in recognizing the extent of a person's spine curvature. With the frequency of scoliosis screenings in schools and its recognition as the most common kind of spine deformity, the topic is familiar enough to integrate into a STEM lesson. In this lesson, intermediate elementary school students will devise a strategy to measure the curvature of the spine of people who are diagnosed with the condition. Students will play the role of a scientist and examine x-rays of patients with scoliosis to try to determine a systematic way of measuring the curvature.

Classification: M62 G22 G42

Keywords: mathematical applications; medicine; primary education; student activities; group work; curvature; angles; measurement; uniformity; discrepancy

<http://www.nctm.org/Publications/teaching-children-mathematics/2015/Vol21/Issue6/The-geometry-of-scoliosis/>