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Family maths: changing attitudes and developing cognitive processes.

Ogude, Nthabiseng Audrey et al., The sixth annual meeting of the Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics and Science Education. ., 50-59 (1998).

The “Family Maths” programme run from the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) is a Co-operative Organisation for the Upgrading of Numeracy Training (COUNT) initiative based on the “Equals” and “FamilyMath” programmes at the Lawrence Hall of Science (University of California, Berkeley). “Family Maths” is a programme designed to give parents, teachers and children the opportunity to develop a better understanding of, and improve attitudes to, mathematics at primary school level. The focus of “Family Maths” is on “families learning Mathematics together” and aims at changing the attitudes of both parents and children to this subject through enjoyable, everyday activities. The programme uses a problem solving approach and “hands-on” materials in order to develop conceptual understandings, logical and spatial skills, problem-solving techniques, communication and social skills, as well as pure enjoyment of the subject. In this way “Family Maths” is designed to help parents, especially those in disadvantaged communities, to become effective partners in their children’s learning of the subject. This study is a first attempt at initiating a process to research cognitive and attitudinal changes. Despite the limitations of this study, the data available appears to support the research findings in California as regards cognitive and attitudinal changes during “Family Maths” activities. Also, the methods and processes which were developed during this attempt at action research may serve as pointers for future investigations in these areas of development. (From the introduction)

Classification: B12