

Gamble, Kelsey
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TE 855 - Gundlach

Erlwanger Reflection

I have read the Benny article before and always find it very interesting. I like the Benny article because it shows that students do not always pick up the lessons the way we would like them to. Teachers need to make sure we are assessing students' understanding. If the teacher monitoring Benny's progress had been assessing his understanding the "tricks" and "patterns" he found could have been corrected and tested.

I cannot say that I have had any students that stand out like Benny but I think in every concept each teacher has at least one or two students who will struggle to grasp the concept or misunderstand what they should be taking away from the lesson. It is important to have students explain their reasoning and make sure their patterns are actually mathematical sound.

Sometimes teachers get so caught up in the process of how to get the answer they forget to explain the number sense of how to get there. When the focus is too much on the process that is when students start to formulate their own ideas about why the processes work, just like Benny.