

Informed Consent

Student (K–12) Classroom Research

*Western Governors University - Teachers College
Masters of Science: Learning Theories and Technology
Leigh Beckstead
Solving Mathematical Word Problems in Third Grade*

Introduction

Leigh Beckstead, a graduate-student researcher in the Teachers College of Western Governors University, wishes to conduct a research study for the purpose of determining the impact of using digital pictures, using the program Educreations, on students' abilities to solve one and two-step word problems in a third-grade class. Approval of the Quest Academy Charter School principal to conduct this study was obtained prior to this announcement. By signing this consent form, parents or legal guardians agree to allow their child to participate in the study. Any data collected will be reported as part of a group; individual student names will not be used.

Description of the Project

This study will focus on solving one and two-step word problems using digital pictures. Students will use the technology program, Educreations, to create digital pictures to show how they solve various word problems. A pre/post-test will be given to students and the data will be used to see the impact of creating digital pictures on students' abilities to solve word problems. If you choose to not have your child participate in this study, he/she will go into another teacher's classroom for the one hour and fifteen-minute math block to receive math instruction until the research period has ended. The research will be conducted in the researcher's classroom during the hour and fifteen-minute math block and this study will run for seven days, for a total of 8 hours and 45 minutes.

Benefits and Risks of the Study

This study only poses a minimal risk for participants. The research that will be conducted in the classroom setting is material that students learn every year in third grade, as it is part of the common core math standards. Students may experience normal test anxiety when taking the pre- and post-test. However, there is no greater risk than those which are normally encountered in the everyday classroom setting. The researcher will take the necessary steps to minimize any known risks with this study. The researcher will help minimize the anxiety risk by informing students when taking the pre-test that this is information that they have not learned. The researcher will also provide extra time for those students who need extra time to complete the pre- and post-tests. Breaks will also be given to those students who show signs of test anxiety, so students have the opportunity to calm down and step away from the test.

Students will be informed that the study activities are intended to help them better understand word problems, enabling them to become more proficient in math. The study may help the researcher and other educators acquire additional teaching techniques to facilitate student learning.

Confidentiality

The data gathered from this research will be private and confidential. Your child's information will be assigned a code number. The list connecting your child's name to this code will be kept on a password protected computer and password protected file. When the study is completed and the data have been analyzed, this list will be destroyed. Your child's name will not be used in any report. Data will be reported in the aggregate.

Voluntary Participation

This research topic on solving one and two-step word problems is part of the common core math standards; as such, all students are expected to fully participate fully in classroom activities. Those students that choose not to participate in the study will not be required to complete the data gathering instruments (pre/posttest).

Withdrawal

Participants may withdraw at any time from non-regular classroom instruction and will not be penalized for nonparticipation. To withdraw from the study, the parent or participant must notify the researcher. Parental or legal guardian consent as well as school principal or district administrator permission must be granted in order for the student researcher to gather data for the purposes of their research project. Parents can request that their child's individual results be excluded from the final report. Grades/enrollment will not be impacted in any way as a result of withdrawing from this study.

Questions, Rights, and Complaints

Participants and their parents/legal guardians have a right to view the results of the study. If you have questions about this study, please contact me by calling 801-529-4360 or email lbecks1@wgu.edu.

If you have questions about your rights, unresolved questions, or complaints pertaining to the study, contact the WGU IRB Chairperson by email: irb@wgu.edu.

Consent Statement

By signing this document, the administrator grants permission for student data collection and all reporting necessary for this study.

By signing this document, the parent/legal guardian grants permission for their child to participate in the study and has the opportunity to have his or her questions answered.

Student participants will be informed of the research purpose and activities and will be asked for their assent to participate upon parental approval.



School Administrator Signature

Principal

Title of Administrator

David Bullock

Typed/Printed Name

1-22-18

Date

Parental/Legal Guardian Signature

Typed/Printed Name

Date