

A new method of teaching mathematics

A private teacher from Zabrze has established a method of teaching mathematics to, among all, five-year-olds. He has introduced a set to the Patent Chamber, which consists of 6 decks of cards 40 cards each, a book and CD's. – I've been working on the method for three years – explained Krzysztof Cywiński.

PHOTO: Five-year olds cannot write yet, but they can learn recognizing numbers.

For a few years, Krzysztof Cywiński of Zabrze has been teaching children and teenagers, who have a problem with mathematics.

- Throughout years of experience and talks with kids and their parents, I have come to realize, that you must start studying this subject as soon as possible – said Krzysztof Cywiński, author of the mathematical set for children, known since year 2009 as the author of the book “Mathematics for humanists, the dyslexic and... other hopeless cases”.

A deck of cards with numbers

Cywiński, who is not a mathematician by occupation, but a – as he called it – “experienced tutor”, has been working on his method for three years. According to him, the method can be used for pre-school children.

- Five-year-olds cannot yet write, but they can learn how to recognize numbers. This is what my cards are for. The study is about showing it to children. The teacher, parents or grandparents can sit with the child by a table and pick cards one by one. After some time, the child that cannot write can recognize numbers – explained Cywiński. A material of such a lesson with a description of the method has been uploaded to YouTube.

They start with the basics

Each educational set contains 6 decks of 40 cards, which are just a little smaller in size than traditional cards. Cywiński explains, that such a number of cards – 240, is not a coincidence.

- I've been working on the method with children. Also, every deck of cards has mathematical symbols, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, brackets, inequality, percentage, even fraction symbols and the “x”, which can be used to solve equations – continued Cywiński. Each deck has ten cards of each digit from 1 to 10, and a few cards with the rest of the symbols.

Three pre-school children, one third-grader, one sixth-grader with dyslexia and one high-school student have taken part in the experiment with the cards. Cywiński said, that “recognizing numbers is merely the beginning”. – If the child acquires the basic information quickly, it can move on to more difficult problems, such as the multiplication table, fractions, raising to a power, solving equations – he adds.

“This method seduced me”

Cywiński’s method has been tested by an integrated learning teacher at Elementary School 7 in Gliwice. Katarzyna Kościelniak admitted that the children loved the cards.

- This method seduced me, especially that it’s a challenge to make children work. At first I showed them what the cards were about, and they quickly began to play themselves. Education and play became one – explained the teacher.

Kościelniak noticed, that the cards also help with studying the multiplication table at school. –Not only did I take the cards to school, but the idea also became good fun. The children said that it’s “great”. I’ve noticed that after shuffling the cards a few times, the children became familiar with the numbers – remarked the teacher.

The complete educational set will consist of 6 decks of cards, a book with lesson ideas, games, two CD’s with films, starring grandparents and parents presenting the method.