Unpacking Fractions: Classroom-Tested Strategies to Build Students' Mathematical Understanding

Author(s): Monica Neagoy

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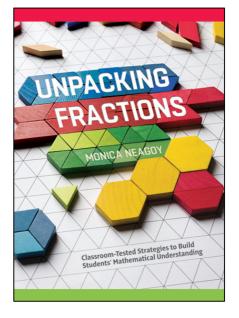
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Focus Area: Professional Development

Key Learning

Area: Mathematics



Summary

Author Monica Neagoy, drawing on decades of research studies, evidence from teacher practice, and 25 years of experience working around the world with teachers, students and parents, addresses seven big ideas in the teaching and learning of fractions in Years 2–6. Each idea is supported by a vignette from a real classroom, common misconceptions, a thorough unpacking of productive mathematical thinking, and several multistep and thought-provoking problems for teachers to explore.

She offers three fundamental reasons why it's imperative for us to take a closer look at how we teach fractions:

- 1. Fractions play a key role in students' feelings about mathematics.
- 2. Fractions are fundamental to school maths and daily life.
- 3. Fractions are foundational to success in algebra.

While a solid grounding in algebra is necessary for a STEM career, the worthy goal of "algebra for all" will not be possible until "fractions for all" is a reality. *Unpacking Fractions* provides teachers with concrete strategies for achieving that reality – in short, helping all students gain the knowledge they need to feel at ease with fractions.

Other Resources

- *Maths Dictionary for Kids: The #1 Guide for Helping Kids with Maths (5th ed.)* (PRU2491)
- Balancing the Equation: A Guide to School Mathematics for Educators and Parents (SOT1505)
- A Mind for Mathematics: Meaningful Teaching and Learning in Elementary Classrooms (SOT1338)



PO Box 580 Moorabbin VIC 3189 Tel: +61 3 8558 2444 Fax: +61 3 8558 2400

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