ForeWord Reviews

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Draw Plus Math: Enhance Math Learning Through Art Activities
Freddie Levin
Freddie Levin
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Combining two seemingly different activities, *Draw Plus Math* allows children to explore math concepts through drawing simple illustrations. Children only need to know six basic shapes—square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, and trapezoid—to start the enjoyment. This book comprises twenty lessons, all based on the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, which are adopted by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The book begins with an exercise in counting and drawing different styles of fish, and grows progressively more difficult. Other lessons include drawing a birthday cake with candles to determine odd and even numbers; drawing groups of cats to determine the concepts of more and less; drawing and sorting bugs by color, shape, and pattern; and drawing a tree full of different birds to gather and graph data. The final lesson is a drawing game that incorporates numerous concepts introduced throughout the earlier lessons.

An illustrator of early readers, workbooks, greeting cards, and game boards, Freddie Levin has also illustrated the picture books *ABC Math Riddles* and *ABC Art Riddles*. In *Draw Plus Math*, she uses a clear, step-by-step approach, which she successfully developed in her previous *1-2-3 Draw* books, such as *1-2-3 Draw Princesses*, *1-2-3 Draw Ocean Life*, *1-2-3 Draw Pets and Farm Animals*, and *1-2-3 Draw Knights, Castles, and Dragons*.

Although some children may need adult assistance, Levin's child-friendly illustrations in crayon, colored pencil, and digital media are easy to replicate. While the goal of *Draw Plus Math* is to instill a better awareness and appreciation for math in the everyday environment, its lessons also involve shape recognition, symmetry, and design details, preparing children to be better artists, too. Both educators and parents will find this activity book useful in the classroom, as an at-home supplement, or simply to beat rainy-day boredom. Whatever its use, children will quickly look beyond these lessons as instructional and simply see them as fun. For ages 4-8.

Angela Leeper