

Developer's Comments for Math and More 5/6

- John Schiener -

On behalf of the development team, I am extremely proud and excited to announce our latest product in the Math and More series, *Math and More 5/6*. With this product we continue our commitment to providing technology-based instructional software and curriculum material to meet the needs of mathematics students and teachers across North America.

The year 2000 represents my 13th year as Project Manager of mathematics product development for IBM North America, and *Math and More 5/6* is my 19th product. Paramount in the development of all of our products is a focus on addressing national and provincial mathematics standards.

In the *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, the year 2000 document published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), six principles are identified that describe features of high quality mathematics education.

One of the principles, The Learning Principle, highlights the following reoccurring theme of the document. **Learning mathematics with understanding is essential.**

It is the spirit of the *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* document, and the goal of learning mathematics with understanding that guided our development of *Math and More 5/6*.

Children as active learners, working on meaningful problems, collaborating with others, reflecting on their own progress, and using a variety of resources, including computer-based tools is the vision of the Math and More series of products. The teacher role is one of a professional who orchestrates activities and materials to create a learning environment, who uses a range of teaching strategies, and who adapts or creates activities to meet the needs of the students.

Math and More 5/6 reflects this model and vision of the teaching and learning of mathematics and the following principles of active learning.

- Solving and posing problems are the heart of learning.
- Concrete manipulatives are essential for learning.
- New learning builds on prior knowledge.
- Collaborative group work integrated with individual work is a strong framework for learning.
- Understanding is best developed through meaningful contexts.
- Different mathematical challenges require different skills and strategies for thinking.
- Mathematical communication is central to learning.
- Ongoing assessment is a vital element of teaching.

If our field testing of *Math and More 5/6* is any indication, teachers will be delighted by their students being actively engaged in meaningful mathematical experiences. Our vision for *Math and More 5/6* is the vision of the NCTM *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*. Students will learn mathematics with understanding, value mathematics, and actively engage in learning.