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# Do Hands-on Activities Affect the Teaching of a Classroom?

Emily Buonocore

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to see if the use of hands on activities, in math, have an impact on teaching. This study observed teaching behaviors and how students were felt about hands-on activities. Findings showed that teaching increased and students' understandings of mathematical concepts increased.

## Methods

Developmental portfolios and personal history were used to collect data. The focus was on my daily reflections, student reflections and how math affected me as a student and how it connected to my teaching practice.

## Visuals

### **Student Survey**

Would you rather use your iPad for math, or play hands-on math games with friends? (circle one)

iPad or  Math Games

### **Data Collection**

How does hands-on activities, in math, impact my teaching practice?									
	Improvement	Mood Changing	Miscellaneous						
My Teaching	2/3 - Teaching is challenging when using hands-on activities	2/3 - Trying to be happy while using hands-on activities							
My Students	2/3 - Students are still doing the same on their activities that they were when using iPads	2/3 - Students are NOT happy to not be using their iPads	Students are frustrated/ confused						
My Teaching	3/4 - My teaching is becoming more confident	3/4 - I am happy and more involved when using hands-on activities							
My Students	3/4 - My students are doing better on their tests	3/4 - Students are getting excited about hands on activities	Students are asking to use games in free time instead of iPads						

## References

White, K., & Mccoy, L. P. (2019). Effects of Game-Based Learning on Attitude and Achievement in Elementary Mathematics. *An Online Journal for Teacher Research*, 21(1), 1–17. Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1206814.pdf>

## Findings

White (2019) also found “The data revealed that not only did the students enjoy the game-based learning practices, but they also began to change their entire attitude about mathematics in general.” (p. 9).

## Conclusions

The teachers' tone and explanations change when using hands-on activities. It is easier to teach and made me more comfortable in front of the classroom. I can easily sit down with my students and guide them through the math problems, when using hands-on activities. Also, students are more excited and engaged in the math lessons!