

EARLY CHILDHOOD MATHEMATICAL THINKING

A book for educational practitioners and parents

Zvia Markovits

Young children possess high mathematical abilities, higher than we think. They are curious, interested in mathematics, and deal with it as part of their daily routine. Early experience with mathematics is of great importance to children's future, contributing to the development of mathematical-logical thinking. The aim of this book is to lay out for educators and parents the ways young children think mathematics, speak mathematics, and learn mathematics, and to provide tools and ideas to develop children's mathematical thinking. The book includes examples and a theoretical background about how the number concept and geometrical concepts develop in children, and offers a variety of simple activities and mathematical games that can be easily prepared at home and in preschool.

Prof. Zvia Markovits is an expert on early childhood and elementary school mathematics. She had taught for many years at Oranim Academic College of Education, where, among her duties, she served as Head of the Mathematics Education Program, and Head of the M.Ed. Program in Mathematics and Science Education. She headed the Mathematics Curriculum Committee for preschools appointed by the Ministry of Education. At present, Markovits is a member of the Faculty of Science in the Kibbutzim College of Education. Her research on early childhood focuses on teachers' beliefs regarding teaching mathematics in preschool, and on the development of mathematical concepts among young children. She also studies the relationship between mathematics and gender, and studies number sense and visual thinking.

