



Using LEGO® Bricks to Teach Math

An old school toy has become a new way to teach math to Rowan Salisbury school children. In 1949 a Danish toy manufacturer Ole Kirk Christiansen began to make a toy that would revolutionize the ancient wooden building blocks. The interlocking plastic blocks would take the company name, LEGO. The term LEGO® is taken from a Danish phrase *leg godt* meaning “play well.”

In a two-day workshop recently presented by Communities In Schools of Rowan County, twenty-six volunteer tutors, teachers, and CIS staffers learned how to use the beloved toy to teach basic concepts of multiplication, division, and fractions.

Communities In Schools of Rowan County has partnered with Dr. Disseler to offer LEGO® Math training to community volunteers working in Hanford Dole, Hurley, Isenberg, Koontz, North Rowan, and Overton Elementary Schools; Knox and North Rowan Middle Schools; and Henderson Independent High School.

Dr. Shirley Disseler is a Rowan County resident and a professor on the faculty of High Point University. Using her many years of experience in teaching math in public schools, Dr. Disseler has authored a series of books and curriculum on using LEGO Bricks to teach math entitled “*The Brick Math Series*.”



“Build, draw, and write,” Disseler says is an important process in Brick Math. “You have to show them (students) how, then have them show you what they know!”

Sets of LEGO bricks and instructional books will be available for use by tutors in the nine Rowan Salisbury Schools served by CIS of Rowan County.

The workshop and materials were made available to CIS of Rowan County through a Duke Energy grant.



“Legos make learning fun. Duke Energy is proud to support this kind of creative hands-on learning that can really ignite a child’s excitement in science and math-related careers,” said Randy Welch, Duke Energy district manager in Rowan County.



Jasmine Davis
Student Support Specialist
Koontz Elementary

Taylor Downs
Student Support Specialists
Hurley Elementary



Training Participants
Koontz Elementary



Lyn Wilson
Student Support Specialist
North Rowan Elementary

Shatoya Johnson
Student Support Specialist
Hanford Dole Elementary

Wanda Huntley
CIS Volunteer Trainer

Tracy Harris
Graduation Coach
Henderson Independent
High

Blair Miller
Student Support Specialist
Knox Middle



Training Participants
Koontz Elementary