**Well-Played: Building Mathematical Thinking Through Games and Puzzles**

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We were introduced to the book at a workshop with Jeannie DeBoice. Intrigued at the possibilities, we decided to form a book club to get the book and try some of the activities in our classrooms. The target audience for the book is said to be kindergarten to grade two, but we felt the activities are more suited to grade 1-2, or even higher. Classroom teachers, learning support teachers, or people interested in using math centres would benefit from reading this book.

Overall, we found the book to be useful and easily laid out with games that really cemented early math concepts without any ‘fluff’. We liked the ideas behind the games. Many of the games could be adapted to the personality and ability of the classes. The many group activities made it easier to choose to pair stronger and weaker students if mentoring was desired. The games also reminded teachers of already known games and how they could be tweaked.

The ‘manners’ section of the book helped set the behaviour expectations for the activities in a non-threatening manner, without the teacher needing to lecture students on desired behaviours. The format of ‘Dear Manners Expert’ gives students ideas on how to deal with certain situations when working with a partner or a team.

For each game there were sections explaining how it looked in a classroom, tips for executing, what to look for to assess, variations on the game, and an exit question. The familiar layout made searching for new games easier. We found that the directions for individual games were sometimes vague, needing a lot of teacher interpretation and possibly scaffolding of the steps. The included blackline masters needed to be changed (in size or style) for some of the games we tried to make them more appropriate for our classes.

The book is definitely worth a look to get a broad range of math games that are ready to implement into the classroom.