MATH NOTES AND WEBSITES

<http://www.learningthings.com/blog/index.php/comparing-singapore-math-saxon-math> Comparison between Singapore Math and Saxon Math

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9gMUP6kPlg> Video of Homeschool Mom explaining her choice between Singapore Math and Saxon Math

<http://www.homegrownleaners.com> Blog for Homeschool Mom who has chosen Saxon Math for teaching her children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZRsYA4LofA> comparison between Singapore Math and Saxon Math

<http://blog.coreknowledge.org/2010/10/06/singapore-math-is-our-dirty-little-secret/>

Having a granddaughter in the fifth grade has brought the Math Wars home to roost. Our own children learned Math in an ABEKA curriculum using Saxon Math. All three scored off the charts on standardized tests in Math and have gone on to careers where that proficiency was important (Engineering, Marketing, and Business).

I earned my degree in education in 1972 at a time of revolution in education. At that time, the shift was to manipulate children for social engineering purposes de-emphasizing individualism and competition toward team/group learning and peer tutoring. Individual excellence headed for the chopping block.  In the early 1990s, I ran for the School Board twice with a Back to Basics agenda. I thought the fact that 60% of first time entering freshmen at the local community college was a pretty telling indictment against OBE/Whole Language/Progressive Education. Others thought that was important as well and we had lively discussions on the Ramsey/Moore Report, a talk show I co-hosted on a conservative radio station. Shockingly, the campaign against me was pretty much directed from the system's central office.

Before our the Dothan City School Board paid someone to rewrite the Board bylaws, they stated that learning would be "sequential." That is important to note because the shift in the late 60s was to Progressive educator's preferred method of having learning be inferential and thematic. With the centralization of education in the Department of Education The words "drill and repetition" became dirty words not to be repeated in education unless you wanted to be labeled an educational "flat earther." The Elementary and Secondary Education Act created the environment for Progressive educators to practice their experiments on America's school children under the guise of leveling the playing field for all children. Then in 1979 President Jimmy Carter established the Department of Education and local control of education became a thing of the past. Though we did not officially have a national curriculum, professional educators with a progressive agenda more focused on social engineering than academic excellence distributed funds for participation in special programs. Local boards got addicted to the funding and found themselves bound, gagged and disenfranchised by those dollars.

 Twenty years later the disturbing numbers of those needing remediation in college have not changed but those administrators did go on to bigger and better jobs, salaries and lucrative retirement. I must admit to being shocked that something so basic as teaching children to read was now political!

When my daughter and I began asking for the reason for the shift from traditional Math to Everyday Math we were informed that the answer to a problem was not so important as the thinking process and that was why our granddaughter was required to do at least two or three extra steps before coming to an answer. My daughter, an electrical engineer, could not help her. She has suffered serious physical problems lately and requested my help.

I now have now the grandmother of a fifth grader, as well as the grandmother of four other children still 3 and under who will be in school eventually. That makes me a very important person... to them at least. Plus, I have two degrees in education and experience dealing with administrators using our children as guinea pigs for fads. So, once more I am jumping into the fray.

I spoke to the principal of the school she attends who told me no one else had spoken to him about having problems with the new Math program. Yet, my daughter had already emailed him with her concerns. He promised to look into it. In the meantime, our daughter has hired a tutor, but the method still seems laborious and she is still having problems. So are many others: to witness: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parents-Against-Everyday-Math/37453309495)

Read "Is Everyday Math The Worst Math Program Ever?" (Emily Willingham, author) reads the headline on the Forbes website (http://www.forbes.com/sites/emilywillingham/2013/12/10/is-everyday-math-the-worst-math-program-ever/).  And weep for what your education dollars have been used for... the children who have been disabled in their numeracy.

 However, since Singapore Math is so sequential and doesn’t re-teach concepts or skills, using the program may set these students up for failure, whether they’re moving into a district using it or out of district using it.