

# REVIEW

by Gordon Nicol

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"Kids and Computers: An Enrichment Program for Elementary Schoolchildren" by Nancy L. Bloomstrand, *Arithmetic Teacher* 31, no. 5 (January 1984).

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Anyone considering a horizontal enrichment program for the top five percent of elementary students in a 400-student school should read this article.

Nancy L. Bloomstrand is a learning centre director and consultant in Rockford, Illinois. She provides good background and lots of "nuts and bolts" details on both the Grade 3-6 and Grade 1-2 programs, including objectives, scope, sequence, timing, and projects.

The Grade 3-6 program includes the chronological development of numeration. Students work with clay, producing their birthdates in fired cuneiform-like tablets: good take-home artifacts. They use other machines including computers, and enjoy a field trip studying Da Vinci's work and art.

The Grade 1-2 topics include counting, bases, chip trading for addition and subtraction, attribute blocks, "Quisinaire" rods, art projects, spatial relations, and a tiling unit. Keyboard study leads into simple computer interaction.

Parental involvement is stressed. A detailed timeline showing scope and sequence is provided. The bibliography of 26 books, five magazines, and two software evaluations (including MECC) is a valuable resource as is the list of materials and equipment.

The stinger is that testing reported no statistically significant results, but favorable evaluation by students, staff, and parents. The second year was, unfortunately, cancelled due to staff turnover.

