

Implementation Strategies

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Scenario: Supplement

Purpose: Improve Skills, Extra Practice

Time Spent in ALEKS: 30 minutes per day, 3 days per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables)

Overall Experience:

ALEKS has been fantastic. My three children use it almost every day and are so proud of themselves when they complete a slice of their pie chart. It is amazing how much they didn't learn in school! I am also very impressed with how much the kids retain from assessment to assessment. I only wish there was something similar for language arts!

What challenges did the student face in math prior to using ALEKS?

One of my children is advanced in math and has no problems; she just needed a program to supplement what she was learning in school. Another child has trouble in math – she hates it. She is in eighth grade, but we started her in third grade math with ALEKS to make sure that she isn't missing anything.

What were you looking for in an online math tool?

I was looking for a program that the kids would like, and not be resistant to. I like that ALEKS doesn't give them 30 of the same problems to do; it only makes them do the problems that they need to learn. I also like that ALEKS reassesses them so they must retain the information that they are learning. I was also looking for something that wouldn't take a ton of effort on my part.

How was ALEKS implemented with other curriculum?

The kids all go to Catholic school and learn math in their classes, but their math curriculum seemed to be incomplete. We put all three kids in ALEKS and had them take the Initial Assessment. We also reward them monetarily based on how they do on their reassessments. They get one dollar for every ten percentage points mastered. We also reward them with a quarter for every topic they master in the Learning Mode. Each school night, they have to learn three new topics. Each non-school night, they have to learn six new topics. This seems to be a good pace for them, and they don't complain about it too much.

How does the student feel about his/her progress in ALEKS?

They like the sense of accomplishment. I told my daughter that I was proud of her for how well she was doing in ALEKS, and she gave me a big hug.