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BEDUC 419

iTouch Review

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On the iTouch I found the application DiaMath, an Algebra learning tool. DiaMath is a fun and challenging way for students to practice their problem solving skills and practice factoring quadratic equations for the small cost of $0.99. With the DiaMath application the idea is to solve the two empty spaces in the diamond. All three levels of the application are for problem solving and each level is harder than the last. The 3rd level produces quadratic equation problems. For example, to factor x^2-7x-18 you have to ask yourself: what two numbers multiply to -18(which would be the top of the diamond), but add to -7(the bottom of the diamond)? The purpose of the app is to help students improve their problem solving skills and it is also a great way introduce them to Algebra for the first time. For students that already know Algebra, this app is a great to tool for continued practice.

With this app students will continue to work on problem solving and will learn the beginning stages of Algebra. According to the Washington State online OSPI site, 6th graders are to refine their reasoning and problem-solving skills as they move fully into the symbolic world of algebra and higher-level mathematics.  More specifically, students are to identify relevant, missing, and extraneous information related to the solution to a problem (6.6.B) and [solve](http://standards.ospi.k12.wa.us/GlossaryPopup.aspx?subject=7&word='Solve') one-[variable](http://standards.ospi.k12.wa.us/GlossaryPopup.aspx?subject=7&word='Variable') [linear equation](http://standards.ospi.k12.wa.us/GlossaryPopup.aspx?subject=7&word='Linear+Equation')s (8.1.A ), which is something that will prepare students for 8th grade math. This app is great for differentiated instruction with regards to students who are at a 6th through 8th grade level. 6th graders can practice problem solving skills as well as begin to explore Algebra, while students 8th or 9th grade can refine previously learned mathematical skills. I don’t think this app should be used by itself to teach a new concept, but will work great with a lesson that focuses on extracting information to solve a problem or Algebra.