

## Curriculum Connections

*A visual approach to mixed numbers*

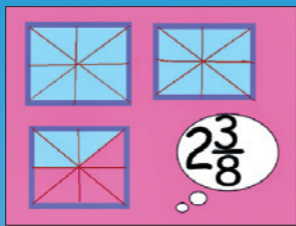


Judy Berlage

"Right now I'm using Pixie with a child with autism that I'm tutoring. Understanding equivalent fractions and mixed numbers can be a challenge for "normal" students.

Although Scott is very bright, math concepts often escape him. Higher-level fractions were "foreign" to him until I started tutoring him this summer. But he loves to draw and has discovered the Stickers in Pixie.

I set up the fraction template on Pixie to review fractional parts of a whole and then moved on to a few templates that I had made to introduce mixed numbers. I then gave Scott a mixed number and had him illustrate it. I was amazed at how easily he grasped the drawing features of the program and how excited and engaged he was in mixed numbers.



Next, I showed him a picture I had stamped with various animals so we could work with fractional parts of a whole, adding and subtracting fractions, writing word problems, and simplifying fractions. Scott was totally attentive, made his own picture with no problem, and retained more than I believe he would have with just paper and pencil when I reviewed with him at the end of the session.

There are days I have trouble keeping Scott on task for our time together, but he is definitely engrossed in Pixie!"

