

The Early Algebra Landscape: Contexts and Models that Support the Journey

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What might the development of algebra look like in the elementary years? What are some of the critical big ideas and strategies young children construct that might serve as important landmarks for teachers to notice, develop, and celebrate; what causes some of the misconceptions and challenges that develop; and, how might realistic contexts and representational models support the development of algebra? Using video from grades 3 and 5, we will examine contexts and models that support the development of several big ideas related to algebra, i.e. treating expressions as objects that can be operated on, equivalence, variation, and deductive reasoning.