

sci.math.num-analysis: Re: OT (or at least skew ;) On what group should I pose this question

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From: Richard Owlett (rowlett_at_atlascomm.net)

Date: 09/17/04

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Martin Brown wrote:

> *In message <10kbransfecige3@corp.supernews.com>, Richard Owlett*

> *<rowlett@atlascomm.net> writes*

>

>> *I'm minding a hyperactive [reportedly bright] 3rd grade boy with*

>> *behavior problems for ~1 hour once a week (he's bored and disruptive*

>> *in adult meeting and (will not)/(can not) participate in age*

>> *appropriate alternative.)*

>

>

> *How old is 3rd grade?*

8 or 9

>

>>

>> *When asked what is his favorite subject, his face lights up and*

>> *replies math!*

>

>

> *He may well be clever then (but not necessarily at maths). Since you*

> *needed to ask this question it is clear that he wrong footed you.*

>

Others had commented that they thought the boy was bright.

His comment on liking math was the first time we met.

I well know the difference between "liking" and "ability" [I like singing. Musically inclined friends prefer sitting on the far side of the congregation ;]

> *Try sci.math – similar questions have come up before.*

>

>>

>> *Can some one point me to some suitable printed material that comes in*

>> *small chunks which would get his attention. I believe he has two basic*

>> *needs:*

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>> 1. *an adult taking his interests seriously*

>> 2. *tackling something that gives him sense of accomplishment*

>

>

> *Lots of recreational mathematics puzzles have been published in the past*

> *from the works of Lewis Carroll through to Martin Gardeners books. Pick a*

> *few of the simpler practical ones and they have almost universal appeal.*

> *eg Hexaflexagons, Mobius strips.*

>

> *Mazes, puzzles like tower of Hanoi, and strategic board games checkers,*

> *go and chess are other things that often appeal to budding young*

> *mathematics. Simple easy to learn rules with complex outcomes.*

>

> *Regards,*