

# About the 20th Anniversary Edition of *Mathematics Their Way*<sup>®</sup>

20th

*Its message is classic; its spirit transcends time.*

No teacher resource in recent decades has had a greater impact on primary mathematics education than Mary Baratta-Lorton's *Mathematics Their Way*. The popularity of this developmental, activity-based mathematics program began slowly from its publication in 1976, but grew steadily. By the late 1980s, it not only began to dominate how primary teachers thought about teaching math, but its philosophy began to permeate the entire elementary math curriculum. Now, twenty years later, it continues to serve primary teachers as a curriculum, a teaching resource, a motivator, a model, and a daily companion.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of its publication, we present a new edition. This is not a revision—the original work in its entirety is preserved. We have added bookmarks and an index coordinating *Mathematics Their Way* to the companion *Summary Newsletter* published by the Center for Innovation in Education. The chapter bookmarks provide the easy reference often requested by teachers who wish to coordinate their use of the two books, and they include references to children's literature and teacher resources.

On the 20th anniversary of *Mathematics Their Way*, we celebrate its influence and success, acknowledge Mary Baratta-Lorton's visionary contribution to math education, and recognize the continuing efforts of the Center for Innovation in Education to nurture and promote activity-based learning in the classroom.

The Publisher

## About the Author



Mary Baratta-Lorton's career as a teacher of kindergarten, first, and second grades began as a participant in the teacher intern program at the University of California at Berkeley. The intern program was established to prepare teachers to work in inner city schools which had a high incidence of academic failure. Through this program and subsequent classroom teaching experiences, Ms. Baratta-Lorton acquired the philosophy: "If the method isn't teaching a child, try something different. Look to the child and change how you teach until you find what works."

The unending search for methods and materials to help children learn resulted in the development of the activities described in her earlier books, *Workjobs* and *Workjobs...for Parents*. This present book, *Mathematics Their Way*, expands the activity-centered philosophy of *Workjobs* into a kindergarten through second grade curriculum in mathematics.

Ms. Baratta-Lorton was the Director of Early Childhood Education for the Center for Innovation in Education. The Center is a nonprofit educational institution established to develop, evaluate, and further the use of successful innovative methods and materials in elementary school education.