

## Introduction

To the student:

The Connecting Mathematics for Elementary Teachers (CMET) materials are designed to be a supplement for the first mathematical content course for elementary teachers. The intent is to help you connect **your learning of mathematics** in this course with **how children understand and learn mathematics**. This supplement primarily focuses on how children learn and understand mathematics. It also attempts to connect the mathematics you are learning with the mathematical concepts you will be teaching children. In addition, the CMET supplement will attempt to connect the mathematics you will be teaching in elementary school to the mathematics and technological skills children will learn in middle and high school.

The supplement will contain insights and examples of how children come to understand mathematics. Many of these insights are based on research but some are based on the authors' personal experiences with helping children learn mathematics. Occasionally the supplement will contain problems or activities for you to do. These activities are different from your textbook in that they are not specifically designed to help you learn mathematics, but instead to help you learn **how children learn** mathematics and how you might teach mathematics to children. In addition, the supplement suggests where and when different topics may be taught in elementary school. It also contains examples from various elementary-school mathematics textbooks.

Foremost, as you are using this supplement, try to consider how you learned mathematics, how children learn mathematics, and how you will be teaching mathematics to children. The more you understand mathematics and how children think about mathematics, the better teacher you will become. The best advice that I can give to you is to read the supplement along with your textbook and think about children's learning of mathematics.

Note:

Throughout the supplement, **student** refers to you, a preservice elementary teacher in mathematical content courses, and **child** refers to an elementary-school student.