

You are cordially invited to attend the
MSU Mathematics Education Colloquium

Wednesday, March 20, 2013
3:30 – 5 p.m., 252 Erickson Hall, MSU



Presented by:
Dr. Susan Empson

The University of Texas
at Austin

Seeing the Algebra in Children's Fraction Work

Children's informal solution strategies for problems that involve adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions often embody the use of algebraic thinking. Identifying and notating this Relational Thinking can help students grow in their understanding of fraction operations and lay a foundation for later learning. In this talk, Susan Empson introduces the construct of Relational Thinking and discusses some of the possibilities and issues in helping teachers to identify and notate children's Relational Thinking.

Susan B. Empson is Professor of STEM Education at The University of Texas at Austin. Her research on the learning and teaching of fractions is the topic of her recent book from Heinemann, *Extending Children's Mathematics: Fractions and Decimals*, co-authored with Linda Levi. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Spencer Foundation, and published in such journals as *Cognition and Instruction*, *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*, *Teaching Children Mathematics*, and *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*.

The Program in Mathematics Education sponsors this event.