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LER 2049

Weighted NUMBERS

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The Weighted Numbers set from Learning Resources® is a great addition to any classroom. Numbering 1 through 10, each number increases in weight by 5 grams. Therefore, if you were to add 2 + 5 it would be equal to 7 on a balance. However, there is a degree of sensitivity and each number varies by .05 - 1 gram. Weighted Numbers can be used in a variety of different ways. The following are a few suggestions and ideas on how to use the numbers in the classroom including number recognition, number sentences, and balance and scale activities.

NUMBER RECOGNITION

Great for young students learning their numbers! Odd and even numbers are color coded for easy identification. The name of the number is also printed on one side for self-checking.

- Explain to students that the odd and even numbers are in different colors. Hold up the numbers one at a time and ask students to name each number. In addition to saying the name of the number, have students state if it is even or odd. For example, you hold up the number 5. The students should say "5, odd."
- Place ten piles of items on a table. Each pile should contain a number of items ranging from 1 to 10 items. For example, one pencil, two paper clips, three erasers and so on. Place the weighted numbers in front of the piles and ask the students to determine if the number accurately represents the number of items in the pile. Then have the students work together until all the correct numbers are in front of the piles with that quantity.

NUMBER SENTENCES

Learning the proper order in which numbers belong is a fundamental skill for higher mathematics. Since the Weighted Numbers increase in weight by 5 gram increments, students can feel the difference between the numbers and determine which number is greater.

- Ask for a volunteer to help demonstrate what numbers are greater. Show students two numbers and ask which they think is the greater number. For example, show a 10 and a 2. Once the class gives their answer have the volunteer close their eyes and hold out both of their hands. Place the 10 into one hand and the 2 in the other hand. Ask them to determine, without looking, which number is greater by feeling the difference in weight. Have the student identify that the number in their right hand (10) is more than the number in their left hand (2). Have the student open his eyes and show the numbers. Was the class correct in their guess as to which number was greater?
- Ask students to put the numbers in order from one to ten. Then ask the students to put in order from least to greatest the even numbers and then the odd numbers. Students may feel the Weighted Numbers to help them place the numbers in order. Once the students determine the orders, ask them to write the numbers and the names of the numbers in order on a piece of paper.

BALANCE/SCALE ACTIVITIES

If there is a balance or scale available, the Weighted Numbers can be used to demonstrate relationships between the numbers. They can also be used to help introduce the concepts of addition and beginning algebra.

- Ask students if there are any special relationships between the even numbers or between the odd numbers? On a balance place the number 1 and 2 on the same side. What number balances the 1 and 2? Try "adding" the number 2 to the 3, 2 to the 5 and so on. What number balances the 3 and 2? The 5 and 2? And so on.
- Set up two numbers on each side of a scale, for example a 3 on one side and a 10 on the other side. Ask students what number they think will balance the scale. Have them write the equation $3 + X = 10$. Then, have the students experiment with the numbers to determine the value of X. How did they determine the correct number was 7? What are some ways, other than using a scale, they can find the correct number? Use the scale and numbers to set up different equations for the students to explore and solve.