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Introduction

Young children develop number sense and an understanding of mathematical concepts when they are provided with various learning opportunities in which they are able to work with numbers in meaningful and concrete ways. Skill development is enhanced, numerical reasoning fostered, and maths proficiency is more readily achieved when they are able to discover, solve, calculate, manipulate, or otherwise actively engage in the learning experience.

Learning Centre Activities: Maths is designed to help set the stage for such learning to take place. Through interesting and challenging hands-on activities, children will be able to reinforce basic mathematical concepts and skills, practise and apply these skills for proficiency, and be provided with opportunities to extend and enrich their general maths knowledge and understanding.

This book is a collection of over 20 ready-to-assemble activities suitable for use in a learning centre with suggestions for dozens of additional skill-building activities. Designed for use with students in years P-2, the activities provide reinforcement, remediation, and enrichment of maths skills in the following areas:

- Numeration (number order, sequencing numbers, rounding)
- Addition (basic facts, computation)
- Subtraction (basic facts, computation)
- Money (combining coins)
- Measurement
- Time (telling time, reading a calendar)

Each learning centre activity in this book is fully developed and illustrated, including specific directions, activity cards or pieces, and where appropriate, an answer key. Along with the specific skill focus and student performance objective for each centre, a list of the materials needed and directions for assembling the centre are provided. Each activity includes suggestions for related activities to provide additional practice and reinforcement. Ideas adapting the activities or creating new ones with similar formats are also provided.

To get started, gather together your markers, coloured pencils, scissors, glue, poster board and envelopes. Add your decorative touch to the centres and create the magic for learning to begin.

Cycle Challenge

Skill

Number: counting sets and matching them to numbers to 10

Objective

Given sets of 1 to 10, the learner will count each set and match it to its corresponding number.

Materials

- Poster board
- Markers or coloured pencils
- String-tie envelope
- Patterns, pages 12-13
- Laminating materials
- Scissors
- Two markers—paperclip, erasers, etc.

Directions

To make this activity, reproduce pages 12 and 13. Glue page 13 to poster board. Use fine-line markers of various colours to highlight *start* and *finish* on the game course and the numbers throughout the course, and add additional colour to decorate the title and illustration. Copy page 12 on cards or glue it to poster board. Make two additional copies of the wheel patterns. Use markers or coloured pencils to decorate the 30 wheels and the game markers. Laminate, if desired, and cut out. Store the wheel cards and the markers in the string-tie envelope.

Additional Activities

- Use this activity for individual practice counting sets and matching to numbers by playing Cycle Cover Up. Post the following directions in the centre: Take the wheel cards from the envelope. Count the number of spokes on the wheel cards and place each card over the corresponding numeral around the cycle. Can you cover all the numbers?
- Let the children create their own board games to practise counting sets and matching to numbers. Provide large pieces of poster board, markers or coloured pencils, scissors, glue, a copy of the wheel patterns and markers, and magazines with pictures. The child selects and cuts out a large picture of an interesting object and glues it to the centre of the poster board. Next, using markers or coloured pencils, he or she draws a game course around the picture. Finally, have the child colour and cut out the wheel patterns and two markers to use with the game. Provide small envelopes for storing the game cards and markers. Encourage the child to play his/her board game with classmates, friends, and his or her family.

Other Centre Ideas

Create similar theme-based board games to reinforce such skills as matching number words to corresponding numbers, indicating the missing number in a sequence of numbers, or basic addition and subtraction facts. Simply select a motivational picture and draw a game course around it similar to the one shown in the centre.

Cycle Challenge *(cont.)*

Directions

For two players

1. Take the wheel cards and two markers out of the envelope.
2. Shuffle and place the wheel cards, face down, near each player.
3. Place markers on *Start*.
4. Taking turns each player draws a card, counts the spokes on the wheel, and moves forward to the matching number on the board.
5. The first player to reach *Finish* is the winner.

Wheel Patterns

