First Grade: Mathematics

Unit 2: Math Strategies

Addition Strategies		
Strategy	Example	Explanation
Counting On (One-/Two-More-Than) + 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 3 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 5 6 7 6 7 8 7 8 9 8 9 10 9 10 11 1 0 11 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	6 + 1 2 + 6	 Count on from six. As students count on from the larger addend instead of counting all, they are ready to practice this strategy. Helping students see the connection between counting on and adding two will help students move from counting strategies to reasoning strategies.
Zero	7 + 0 0 + 4	 Seven plus zero is still seven. Some children may overgeneralize the idea that addition answers are always bigger than the addend. This strategy is a good time to address this misconception. Create a story problem for one of the equations and use counters and a part-part whole mat to model the situation. Post zero facts and ask, "How are the equations alike?"
Using 5 as an Anchor	7 + 6	 Students look for fives in the numbers of the problems. For example, in 7 + 6, a child may think of 7 as 5 + 2 and 6 as 5 + 1. The child would add 5 + 5 and then the extra 2 from the 7 and the extra 1 from the 6, adding up to 13.
Doubles + 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 <td>7 + 7</td> <td> These ten facts (0 + 0 through 9 + 9) are fairly easy to learn and serve as anchors for many other facts. Use picture cards for doubles. Use story problems that focus on pairs of like addends. </td>	7 + 7	 These ten facts (0 + 0 through 9 + 9) are fairly easy to learn and serve as anchors for many other facts. Use picture cards for doubles. Use story problems that focus on pairs of like addends.
+ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 1	4 + 5	 Double the smaller number and add one or double the larger number and subtract one. Compensate addends to double the middle number. (6 + 4 = 5 + 5) If no one uses near doubles strategy, then write the corresponding doubles for some of the facts and ask how these facts could help.



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Combinations of Ten Make Ten	6 + 4	 Most important! Use story problems with two numbers that make 10 or that ask how many are needed to make 10. Make a ten on a ten-frame: Place 6 counters on a ten-frame and ask, "How many more to make 10?" 		
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	8 + 6 (Think 8 + 2 + 4) 9 + 2 (Think 9 + 1 + 1)	 It's used for facts that have sums greater than 10. Students use their known facts that equal 10 and then add the rest of number onto 10. For example, students solving 8 + 6 might start with the larger number and see that 8 is 2 away from 10; therefore, they take 2 from the 6 to get 10 and then add on the remaining 4 to get 14. 		
Subtraction Strategies				
Subtraction as Think- Addition	14 - 7	 Helpful to begin with facts that have totals of 10 or less. It's essential addition facts are mastered first. Think addition using doubles: See 14 - 7 and think 7 + 7 is 14 so 14 - 7 = 7. Use story problems that promote think-addition. Those that sound like addition but have a missing addend. 		
Decompose a Number Leading to 10	14 - 9	 Students use combinations of ten to help subtract quickly. For example, in 14 - 9, 9 can be decomposed into 4 and 5. You can take 4 away from 14 to get 10 and then take 5 away from 10 to get 5. 14 - (4 = 10) 10 - (5 = 5) 		
Take From 10	16 - 8	 It works for all subtraction problems in which the starting value (minuend) is more than 10. For example, take the problem 16 - 8. Students take the minuend apart into 10 + 6. Subtracting from the 10 (because they know this fact), so 10 - 8 is 2. Then they add 6 back on to get 8. 16 - 8 = (10 + 6) - 8 10 - 8 = 2 2 + 6 = 8 So 16 - 8 = 8 		