

Addition

Strategies

When a student is faced with a math addition equation worksheet it can be overwhelming. There are some important strategies that students can implement to work through this.

1. Cover the column(s) that the student is not working on or has completed. This way the student is not overwhelmed. Using cardstock or laminated paper is easier for students to manipulate.
2. Circle the higher addend in each equation. This will make it easier to "Count On". Encourage students to decrease their reliance on drawing circles or marks when counting on. You can accomplish this by suggesting counting on starting with CIRCLES then DOTS then FINGERS then FINGER TAPS then HEAD NODS then by SILENTLY IN THEIR HEAD. With repetition and practise they will be able to move to memorizing the equations without needing to "Count On".
3. Look for and complete equations that can be answered quickly and easily first.

0's, 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's $5 + 0 = 5$ $5 + 1 = 6$ $5 + 2 = 7$ $5 + 3 = 8$ $5 + 4 = 9$
(Easy to 'Count On' using circles, dots, fingers, finger taps, head nods)

Doubles $2 + 2 = 4$ (Easy to memorize)

Doubles Plus 1 $2 + 3 = 5$ (Easy to find and decode)

9's $9 + 5 = 14$ (Easy to find and decode)

10's $10 + 5 = 15$ (Easy to find and solve)

Equal

It is really important for students to understand that the number of items on each side of the EQUAL sign needs to be the same. Many students think that the EQUAL sign is just asking for the answer to the equation. However, the concept of having the same amount on both sides of the equation, is necessary to understand and be able to problem solve different math equations, including algebra. This understanding is also helpful for students to be able to figure out equations such as the following. They are easy to figure out if you use manipulatives with the understanding that both sides require the same number of items.

$$3 + \underline{\quad} = 7 \quad \underline{\quad} + 4 = 7 \quad 7 = \underline{\quad} + 3 \quad 7 = 4 + \underline{\quad} \quad 3 + 4 = \underline{\quad} \quad 4 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$$