MATH SUPERPOWERS: Building for Success



Based on the work of Joan A. Cotter, Ph.D.

Number Sense

- Confusion often due to vague understanding of what numbers mean and how they relate to each other.
- Attempt to solve with rote memorization.

$$7 + 6 = 13$$

$$7 - 6 = 1$$

$$7 \times 6 = 42$$

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Rote Memorization

- There are 390 math facts to memorize.
- Rote memorization is based on behaviorism.
- It needs frequent review and is high maintenance.
- Nearly impossible for those with special needs or learning challenges.
- Rote memorization decreases the joy of math.
- Makes applying learning more difficult.

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Experience Counting Process

Because we're so familiar with numbers, 1, 2, 3, 4, and so forth,

A = 1

B=2

C = 3

D = 4

E = 5

Experience Counting Process







Does this overwhelm you? Create anxiety?

This is what our children experience....

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Math Superpowers

- **Subitizing** is the rapid and confident recognition of quantity without counting.
- Need grouping in 5s and 10s.

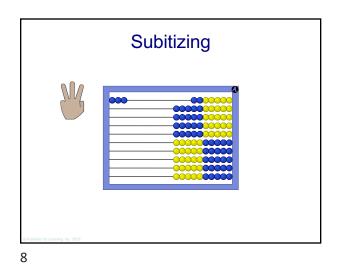


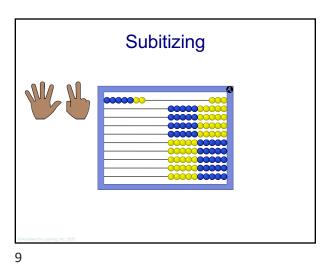


Math Superpowers

- **Subitizing** is the rapid and confident recognition of quantity without counting.
- Need grouping in 5s and 10s.
- **Visualizing** is the ability to form a mental image; to imagine; to see it in your mind.
- **Strategies** are a way to learn a new fact or to recall a forgotten fact; creates organization.
- Visual representations = powerful strategies.

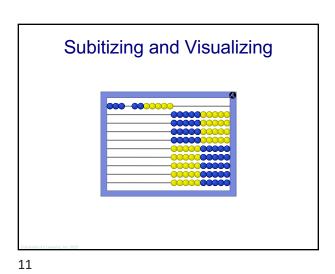
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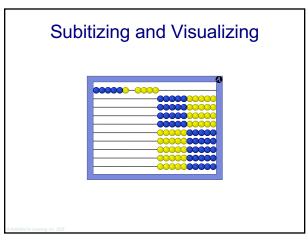


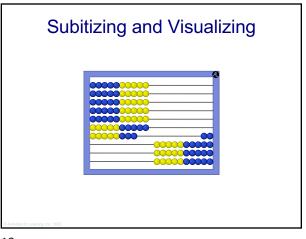


Counting with Meaning

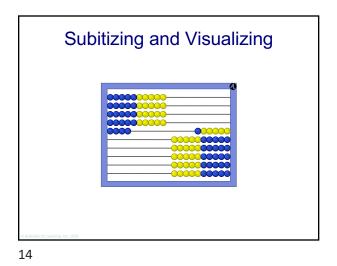
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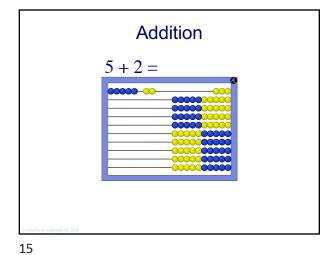






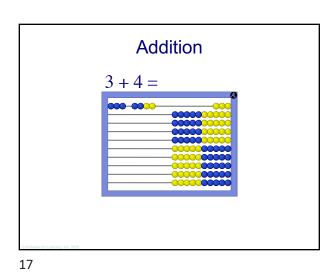
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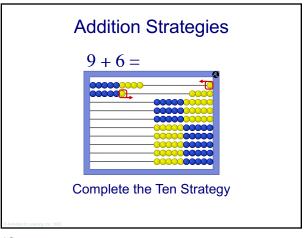
Addition

5 + 2 = 7

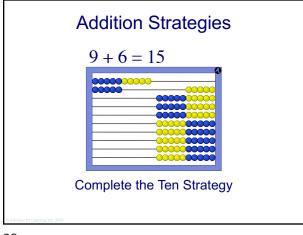


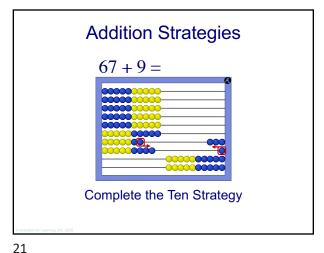
Addition

3 + 4 = 7

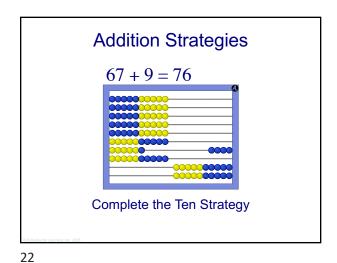


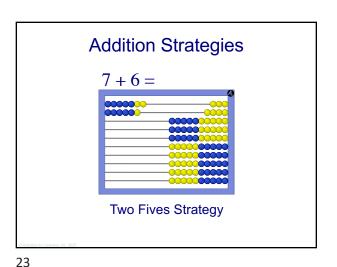
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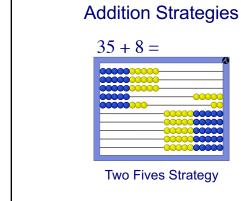
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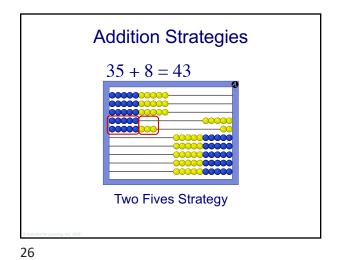
Addition Strategies 7 + 6 = 13

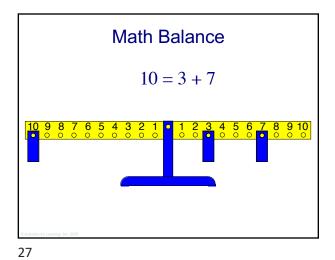
Two Fives Strategy



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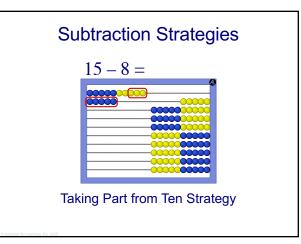
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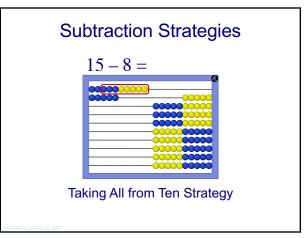
Subtraction Strategies 15 - 8 = 7

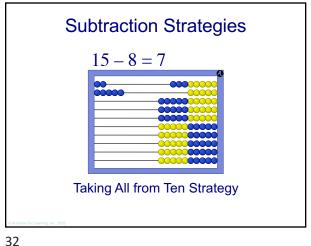
Going Up Strategy



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Subtraction Strategies 15 - 8 = 7Taking Part from Ten Strategy





Math Balance 17 - 9 = 8

Multiplication

- Multiplication has been the mathematical downfall of many students (and adults).
- It's the problem of memorizing the 100
- Multiplication is often taught as repeated addition.
- This gives a limited view of multiplication.
- An array in rows and columns, like this abacus, makes a better model.

Multiplication

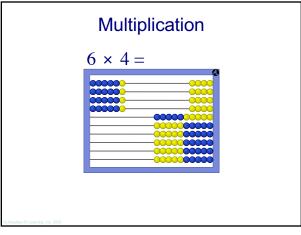
- There are different interpretations about the meaning of 6×2 .
 - 6 + 2: start with 6 and transform by adding 2
 - 6-2: start with 6 and transform by decreasing 2
 - 6 ÷ 2: start with 6 and transform it by dividing it into either 2 groups or groups of 2
- Therefore, to be consistent, 6×2 starts with 6 and transforms it by duplicating it.

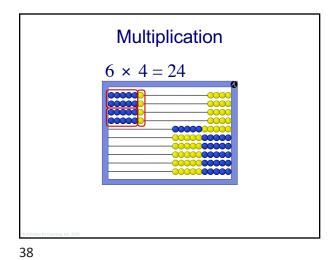
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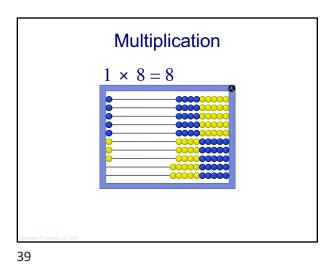
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Multiplication $6 \times 2 = 12$

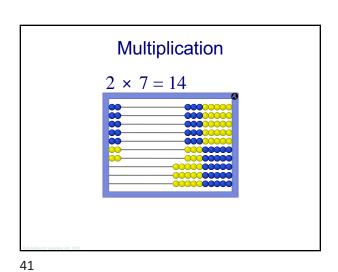






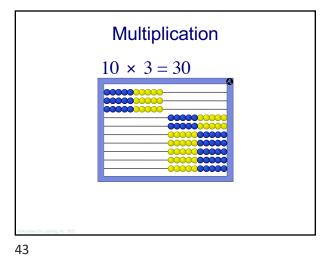
Multiplication $8 \times 1 = 8$

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Multiplication

7 × 2 = 14



...

Multiplication 3 × 10 = 30

Multiplication

• In a 10 by 10 multiplication table, the commutative property reduces the number of facts from 100 to 55 facts.

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• Facts of 1s, 2s, and 10s are generally easy.

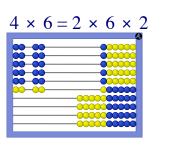
• Now there are only 28 facts left to learn!

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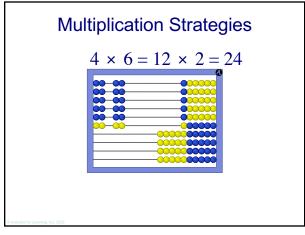
Multiplication Strategies

4 × 6 =

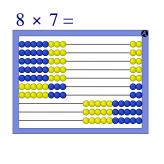
Multiplication Strategies



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Multiplication Strategies



Multiplication Strategies $8 \times 7 = 4 \times 7 \times 2$

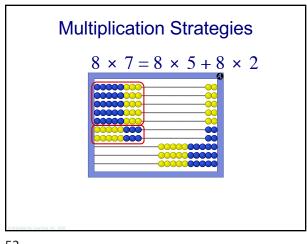
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Multiplication Strategies

8 × 7 = 28 × 2 = 56

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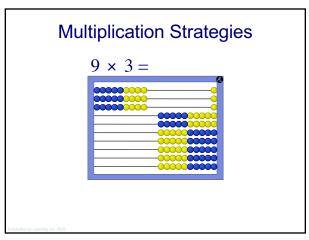


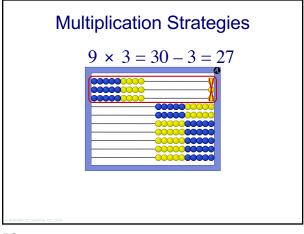
Multiplication Strategies

8 × 7 = 40 + 16 = 56

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Multiplication Strategies Adults generally think in pictures. Children definitely think in pictures. This approach provides solid visualizable strategies.





Math Balance $6 \times 2 = 10 + 2$

56

Math Balance $6 \times 2 = 12$

Problem Solving

- A problem is not a problem if the solution is obvious.
- Don't have the child look for "key" words. There are 9 items in each box and we bought 8 boxes. How many items do we have altogether?
- Using "key words" as a problem solving strategy turns an opportunity to THINK into just another procedure to follow, masking understanding.

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Problem Solving

- is NOT rote memorizing
- is NOT following rules blindly
- is NOT passive learning

Problem Solving

- Problem solving is: thinking carefully about the situation
 - discovering what is given
 - figuring out what is needed
 - and deciding on methods to get there

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Problem Solving

- Japanese teachers discuss one problem in depth, rather than four problems superficially.
- They encourage multiple solutions.
- Wrong solutions are discussed.
- If an error isn't addressed, it will happen again. And again and again!

Guided Discovery

- To encourage and guide the child to discovery. And to get them to think.
- Ask questions, encouraging the child to find the "trick" or "secret pattern".
- It is vitally important that children think about what they are doing and not be satisfied with memorizing a rule.
- This promotes critical thinkers!

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Summary

- 5s and 10s are the foundation for **subitizing**.
- Subitizing is the foundation for visual representations.
- Visual representations strengthen **strategies**.
- Visual representations and strategies gives answers in a format that can be easily recalled.

Summary

- These three components will give your child a new way of learning.
- No rote memorization needed.
- Guide your child to discovery.
- Develop your child's superpowers with subitizing, strategies, and visualization to build success!