

Number Sense and Numeration



TAKE YOUR BASE Not for Distribution

Purpose

- To reinforce fundamental operational sense using mental math strategies.

Division – Primary, Junior

Equipment

- 4 hula hoops (or place markers) to represent bases
- Optional: Popsicle sticks or elastics (to keep track of runs)

Set-up

- Place one hula hoop (or marker) in each corner of the activity area to form a baseball diamond.

Activity

- Ask all students to begin at one corner of the activity area (designated as “home plate”).
- Identify the operation to be performed by the students (e.g., sum, difference, product).
- Each student finds a partner, and on the count of three, each student reveals a random number of fingers on one hand.
- Once one student correctly solves the problem, both partners perform a physical activity movement the number of times that matches the correct answer (e.g., tuck jumps, push-ups).
- The student who correctly solves the problem moves to the next “base” while the other student stays on the current base.
- Students move around the bases finding different partners until they make it back to home plate and score a run.
- Students continue moving around the bases for the duration of the activity.

Modifications

- To increase difficulty, encourage students to use two hands (10 fingers) instead of one hand.
- Activity can require students to change their physical activity movement as they travel to each base (e.g., walk to first base, jog to second base, skip to third base, shuffle to home plate).

Questions for Student Understanding

- Which numbers did you find the most challenging to use in an equation? Why?
- What strategy did you develop that helped you win?
- What makes someone successful at this game? How can you improve?