Suggested Mental Math Strategies

Strategies are listed in order of increasing sophistication.
Strategies appear in blue when they might be introduced for the first time.
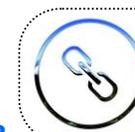
Click on the strategy to view a video snapshot.

	Early Number Concepts	Addition	Subtraction	Multiplication	Division

K	• **Fluency within five**
	  ○ **Five frames**
	  ○ **Dot cards**
	  ○ **Rekenreks**
	• **Fluency within ten**
	  ○ **Ten frames**
	  ○ **Dot cards**
	  ○ **Rekenreks**
		• **Counting all**
		• **Counting on**
		• **Making ten**
			• **Counting back**		

1	• Fluency within ten
	  ○ Ten frames
	  ○ Dot cards
	  ○ Rekenreks
		• Counting all
		• Counting on
		• Making ten
		• **Doubles and near doubles**
		• **Making friendly numbers**
		• **Compensation**
		• **Break each number up by place value**
			• Counting back
			• **Adding up**
			• **Removal**
			• **Adjusting one number**		

2		• Counting on • Making ten • Doubles and near doubles • Making friendly numbers • Compensation • Break each number up by place value • **Adding up in chunks**	• Adding up • Removal • Adjusting one number • **Keep a constant difference**		
3		• Making ten • Doubles and near doubles • Making friendly numbers • Compensation • Break each number up by place value • Adding up in chunks	• Adding up • Removal • Adjusting one number • Keep a constant difference	• **Repeated addition** • **Doubling** • **Benchmark numbers** • **Partial products** • **Doubling and halving** • **Break factors into smaller factors**	• **Repeated subtraction** • **Sharing out** • **Partial quotients** • **Multiplying up**
4		• Making ten • Doubles and near doubles • Making friendly numbers • Compensation • Break each number up by place value • Adding up in chunks	• Adding up • Removal • Adjusting one number • Keep a constant difference	• Repeated addition • Doubling • Benchmark numbers • Partial products • Doubling and halving • Break factors into smaller factors	• Repeated subtraction • Partial quotients • Multiplying up • **Proportional reasoning**
5		• Making ten • Doubles and near doubles • Making friendly numbers • Compensation • Break each number up by place value • Adding up in chunks	• Adding up • Removal • Adjusting one number • Keep a constant difference	• Repeated addition • Doubling • Benchmark numbers • Partial products • Doubling and halving • Break factors into smaller factors	• Repeated subtraction • Partial quotients • Multiplying up • Proportional reasoning

Tools for Teachers