

Tens Flash

Purpose: To help students build the concept of teen numbers as ten plus some ones.

1. Have students count to 10 indicating each number by showing the appropriate number of fingers. For example to show 4, a student would show 4 fingers. Have them "flash" the appropriate number by opening and closing both hands. Have them flash numbers 0-9 to their right.
2. When they get to 10 have them show ten fingers by opening and closing both hands. They flash the ten to their left.
3. Tell them that to show a number in the teens they will show ten first (open and close both hands) and then the number of ones. So 13 would be a flash of ten fingers and then 3 more fingers. They would flash 10 fingers to their left and then 3 fingers to their right. Students enjoy standing while doing the "Tens Flash."
4. When the teacher or student leader says a number the students "flash" that number and say the numbers. For example if the teacher says, "13" the students would flash 10 fingers to the left and then 3 fingers to the right. As they flash the number they say, "Thirteen equals 10 and three."
5. Call out numbers and have them flash the numbers and say the words.
6. Later students can flash numbers beyond 19 by flashing the appropriate number of tens and then ones.
7. This activity also provides a kinesthetic way of expressing numbers.