

Number Talks

Number talks are designed by the teacher to help students develop an understanding of number relationships while students work on computation strategies. Before the lesson the teacher plans a series of number sentences. Each number sentence is shown one at a time. The number sentences are designed to help students see relationships between numbers. After each number sentence is shown the students discuss how they solved it. The next number sentence is shown and again they discuss how they solved the problem. There should be a way to use the previous number sentence to solve the next one. Of course all students will not use the previous number sentence but through the discussion the connection will develop.

The number sentences are designed to support number development, to encourage children to look to the numbers, and to use a variety of strategies helpful for those numbers. The children will be composing and decomposing number flexibly as they work.

Number sentences are done with the whole class or small groups of students.

Allow students to talk in the whole group and also with partners.

Be flexible. If the discuss flows differently than you anticipated be willing to change the number sentences.

Examples of Number Talks with Number Sentences

Number Talks to help encourage the use of 10 and the understanding that adding 9 is like adding 10 and subtract 1

$$15 + 10 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$15 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$15 + 19 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$16 + 10 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$16 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$16 + 19 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$16 + 29 = \underline{\quad}$$

Number Talk using doubles and near doubles

$$12 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$12 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$12 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$40 - 20 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$40 - 21 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$40 - 19 = \underline{\quad}$$

Number Talk using jumps of ten

$$72 - 10 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$72 - 20 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$72 - 30 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$72 - 40 = \underline{\quad}$$