Addition Strip Board

Purpose: To help a child practice and begin to memorize addition facts.

Directions: To begin, invite a child to the math shelf and introduce the Addition Strip Board. Ask the child to carry the board while you carry the number strips. At a table, place the board in front of the child and together, place the number strips into stair formation, placing the blue strips on the left and the red strips on the right. For each set, start with the 9-strip and build down to the 1-strip.

Once the activity is set-up, explain to the child that the Addition Strip Board is used to add numbers and invite the child to explore the board. At this time, make note of the numbers along the top of the board and the red vertical line.

Next, choose an activity equation for the child to solve and write it in his/her book, for example 5+1=.   Ask the child to select the 5-strip from the blue stair and place it on the first row of the Addition Strip Board. At this point, show the child that the number on the board above the end of the blue strip matches the number on the strip, in this case, 5. The child then selects the 1-strip from red stair and places this strip to the right of the first addend (the blue strip on the board). The teacher will now point to the number strips and state the equation "5+1=". Then point out that the sum of the equation is 6, which is found on the board directly above the end of the red strip. Now state the whole equation, 5+1=6. To further check the work, show the child that by counting, moving from left to right, the answer can also be obtained. If the number reached after counting is the same as the number on the board, in this case 6, the sum ins correct.

Once the work is checked, show the child to return the blue and red number strips to their stairs. Invite the child to repeat the activity with other number strips and return the material to the shelf when finished.

Extensions:

Building Combinations for One Sum:

Invite the child to work with the Addition Strip Board to build all combinations for one sum, such as 12. Ask the child to write 12 at the top of the page in his/her workbook. The child will then place the blue 9-strip on the board as the first addend. Encourage the child to find the second addend by counting the number of squares from the blue strip on the board to the square below the 12, which is 3. At this time, the child will select the red 3-strip and place it to the right of the blue strip already on the board. The child is then asked to check her answer by confirming the number on the board above the end of the red 3-strip is 12. Together, read aloud the equation, 9+3=12 and record this equation in their workbook. Continue this work by completing all the combinations of 12 that are possible with two addends, for example, 8+4=12.

Exploring the Commutative Property of Addition:

Invite the child to explore addends with the Addition Strip Board. Have the child place a blue and a red number strip on the board to form an equation, such as 2+4=. Next, have the child find the sum and state the full equation, recording it in his/her workbook: 2+4=6.

At this time, have the child select the opposite order of the addends, placing the blue 4-strip and the red 2-strip on the Addition Strip Board. The child will find the sum, state the equation and record it: 4+2=6. This procedure is repeated with other pairs of addends.

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