

1: Kindergarten Math Counting Tens Mat Interview

Video: Instructional Materials Interview

What are the instructional materials you are using for this lesson?

Speaker 2: Each child will have a work mat that comes with our curriculum and they'll be using counters and then just pencils and I'll have my teacher's manual.

Video: Why did you choose these materials?

Speaker 2: In the curriculum it gave a couple of ... sometimes gives a couple of options for what the kids can use. I've found that the counters are simplest. When they use linking cubes, sometimes they spend so much time trying to link them together that they don't pay attention to what's going on. Then the two different colors was good too, to be able to show different groups so we could show 10 on the red side and then the extra ones on the yellow side. Those little bits of visualization differences make abstract principles more concrete for them.

Video: What do you like about these materials?

Speaker 2: The kids love them. They learn well using them. I've found that if there are days where we rush through the beginning of the lesson which is the part where we use manipulatives and think, 'Oh, they're getting the hang of it, so let's just move onto the paper pencil stuff', they don't gain as deep of an understanding of those concepts.

Video: Are there any changes that would you make to these materials?

Speaker 2: What's nice is that doing the small group instruction, it allows ... if I was doing it with the whole class I wouldn't have enough materials so that's something that's nice is that I have enough now that I'm just working with a small [00:02:00] group at a time. I know that a lot of teachers make is that when you bring out the materials they don't use them properly or the management gets out of control or things like that. One really ... spending a lot of time at the beginning of the year teaching them how to use it is important. Also, it's been nice that we've been getting the small group instruction PD because it's so much easier to manage 6 kids with materials than it is a whole classroom.

Video: How would you describe these materials as meaningful and relevant to student's lives?

Speaker 2: They will ... later on, the way that these materials allow them to gain a deep understanding of these foundational math skills, number skills, it will be relevant one day. But right now, I don't know how relevant a counter is. But, every once in awhile a student will make a comment or make a connection that really surprises me that shows me that they are thinking about these concepts deeply and applying them to different parts of their lives but the majority ... they are still thinking of it as 'This is what I learn in math'. That's one thing that I've struggled with all year is to figure out how to get them

to cross subject areas with knowledge that they're learning in one or be able to understand a question when it's posed in a different way than it has been in their lessons.