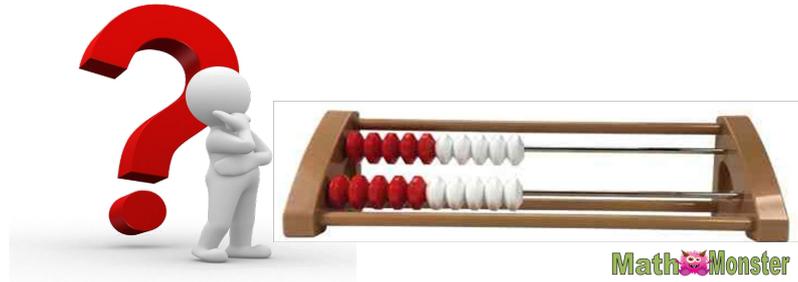


Using Rekenreks

A quick reference guide for families





What is a Rekenrek?

“The rekenrek is a tool that was created in the Netherlands and has been translated to be called an arithmetic rack or calculating frame. I personally call them MathRacks because I work with the MathRack company, but more people know them as Rekenreks. At first glance many people think it looks like an abacus. There is a slight but powerful difference, the color change. The color of the beads changes after 5 beads so that kids can subitize easier and relate quantities to the benchmarks of 5 and 10.”

-Christine Tondevold

Why Use the Rekenrek?

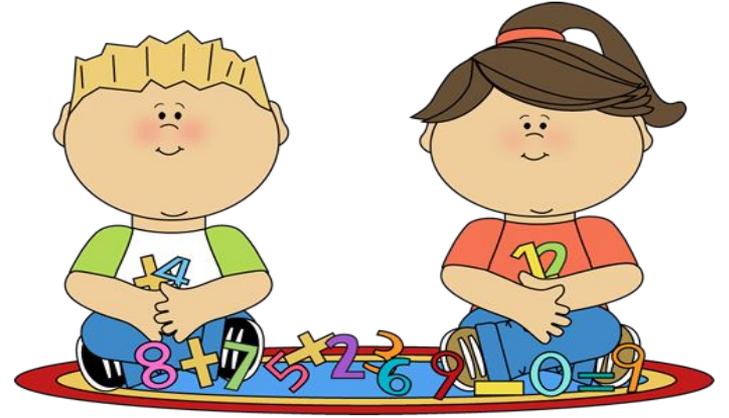
“Rekenreks are used to help develop addition and subtraction strategies, such as doubling or finding near doubles as well as thinking in terms of 5s and 10s, instead of counting from one each time or counting on in addition and subtraction. Students improve their ability to regroup numbers when solving addition and subtraction problems.”

-Math Gains

http://www.edugains.ca/resourcesMath/CE/LessonsSupports/Manipulatives/Manipulatives_Rekenreks.pdf

A Parent's' Guide to Rekenreks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu4kfZS4U1Y>



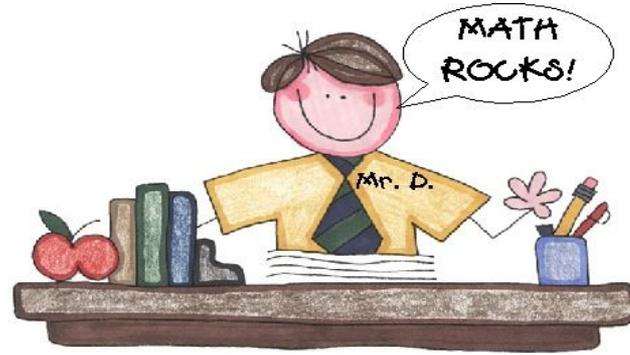
Using a Rekenrek to Represent, Compose, Add and Subtract Numbers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVUkyUovYQ>

Adding Within 20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVUkyUovYQ>

Where to begin?

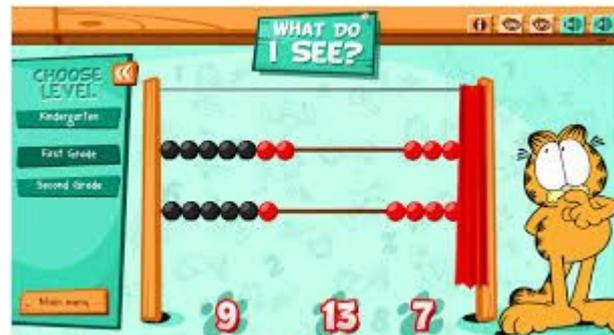


- **Meet the Rekenrek:** Begin by asking children what they notice about the rekenrek. Then introduce the 'start position'(all beads over to the far right) and have them practice sliding beads in groups rather than one by one "Put your beads in start position. Now, without touching the beads, count the first three beads in your mind. On the count of three, slide all three beads at once across the string. One... two...three!" Repeat with other numbers.
- **Show me 0-10:** Say a number, or hold up a numeral card (0-10). Ask students to show the given number by moving the beads with one push.
- **Show me 11-20:** As above but ask students to show the given number of beads using only two pushes.
- **Quick Images:** Push some beads across and display them briefly before covering them with a piece of cloth or card. Ask, "How many beads did you see? How do you know?" Asking children to draw or write what they saw on a dry erase board ensures that everyone is actively involved and serves as a quick assessment. If using a 100 bead rack gradually add rows until you are displaying quick images to 100. This can be extended by asking students to show the number that is one more/one less/ten more/ten less than/double the number flashed.

Websites for suggested activities:

The Top 5 Rekenrek Activities

<http://www.therecoveringtraditionalist.com/top-5-rekenrek-activities/>



Garfield's Math Rack Game

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/garfields-mental-math-games/id619237356>

5 Activities to do with Rekenreks

<http://kteacheriff.com/2017/04/5-activities-rekenreks.html>

Bibliography:

<https://www.jing.fm/iclipt/u2q8y3y3e6r5e6r5/>

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/5iRX8KReT.htm>

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/LcdodK4xi.htm>