

# Make abstract concepts concrete

Teach addition, subtraction, multiplication, division facts, and basic fractions skills within the context of life skills.

- ✓ Demonstrate a concept, show rather than tell, and be prepared to repeat the demonstration or instruction.
- ✓ Provide concrete examples of abstract concepts, for example use an abacus for demonstrating place value, and real objects for counting in sequence.
- ✓ Use digital technologies to provide visual representation of number rules and mathematical concepts.
- ✓ Online learning games may work well because they are repetitive and visual and provide immediate feedback, coupled with a hands-on learning experience.
- ✓ Use vertical number lines instead of horizontal number lines so students can see that adding results in numbers going up and subtracting results in numbers going down.
- ✓ Older students may need to continue using number lines and concrete manipulatives.
- ✓ Plan physical activities involving mathematical concepts such as number, positional language, colour, and shape, as movement can aid memory retention.

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