

Unit Description

Problem Posing with Addition and Subtraction Word Problems in Kindergarten

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Addition and subtraction word problems are now an essential part of the kindergarten mathematics curriculum. Students can become effective problem solvers early by engaging in mathematics through Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). Through CGI, students will be solving problems such as: join, separate, compare, and part-part whole where the initial, the change, or the result are unknown. Once students are familiar with problem types, they will then begin to problem pose. Problem posing involves a teacher giving students a set of information and asking to tell all of the different problems you can make. Students can then be assessed using problem posing to determine understanding for problem solving. This unit is designed to be taught with the Math Expressions curriculum, but can be taught as a stand-alone unit for approximately two weeks depending on student abilities. This unit begins mid-year in kindergarten after students have a foundation for addition and subtraction. Lessons in this unit include: CGI through anchor charts, problem solving for teacher-created word problems, problem posing when given a set of numbers, and generating problems when given a scenario. By the end of the unit, students should be able to problem pose when given a specific scenario.