

Introduction

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Basic Math Practice is a series of reproducible activities designed to help students master basic math concepts. Students can sometimes find math difficult when their reading abilities impair their understanding of math concepts. *Basic Math Practice* provides such students a tool for developing their math skills and acquiring a mathematical foundation without requiring on-level reading skills.

While many basic math programs provide general overviews of each basic math skill, *Basic Math Practice* addresses skills in a variety of formats with multiple activities so that individual learning styles are addressed. This series consists of multiple books, each with over 100 activities that teach and reinforce basic math skills and are based on developmental progression. Therefore, the activities in each book become progressively more advanced.

The skills and activities included in *Basic Math Practice* are age-appropriate and presented at a low-readability level to ensure success for students who struggle with reading. Additionally, the worksheets contain simplified directions and explanations of the activities as well as numerous visuals to further promote success and understanding of math concepts with minimal reading. The *Tables, Graphs, and Charts* book addresses a variety of skills, from sorting to completing and creating tables and charts as well as pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs.

Why are these skills important?

Complex information can be difficult to understand, but through the use of tables, graphs, and charts, the information can be easily communicated visually. Tables, graphs, and charts are often used in real life, for example, in newspapers, magazines, and business reports and on the Internet. Students must have the skills that are necessary for using, interpreting, and comprehending information in tables, graphs, and charts. Students also need to know what format is most appropriate for displaying different information. The standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) state that students in all grade levels must be able to formulate and collect data using observations, surveys, and experiments. Additionally, students must be able to organize the data and display it in graphs, such as pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs, and a variety of tables and charts.

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continued

Features

This series is designed to motivate and engage students, who may have difficulty in reading, in acquiring basic mathematical skills. Each unit within the book contains the following features:

Teacher Instructions – These pages include objectives, definitions of important terms, and a scope and sequence of the concepts that are covered in the unit. Additionally, these pages suggest student-centered activities that will aid the teacher in activating students' prior knowledge and forming explanations of mathematical skills that students will understand.

Parent/Guardian Letter – This letter provides parents/guardians with simplified definitions of important terms used in the unit and explanations of each new skill that will be taught. The letter also provides explanations of the take-home activities that the students will complete to reinforce the skills learned at school. Additionally, this letter encourages communication between home and school and promotes parental support of students' education.

Unit Worksheets – These pages provide clear and simple instructions, examples, and activities that require the students to observe and sort information as well as read, comprehend, or complete tables, graphs, and charts. The worksheets require the students to use problem-solving skills, apply skills to real-world situations, and write responses to journal-writing prompts. A group activity and a take-home activity are included in each unit.

Unit Assessment – This test allows the teacher to gauge students' comprehension and mastery of the skills addressed in each unit. Additionally, this assessment helps students become familiar with standardized-test formats.

Seven Units

Teacher instructions, worksheets, and assessments are presented in seven units. The units are:

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Sorting | 5. Line Graphs |
| 2. Tables | 6. Circle Graphs |
| 3. Pictographs | 7. Charts |
| 4. Bar Graphs | |

This order is the suggested sequence for approaching the skills included in this book. However, the units can be presented in any order based on students' needs or curriculum requirements.