Developing Word Problem Solving Skills through Relational Representations

Marci B. Agnew

This unit will address the need for problem-solving skill-building when it comes to mathematical reasoning in word problems, using cognitively guided instruction. It covers 2 of the 4 critical areas for 2nd grade math Common Core standards; 1) extending understanding of base-ten notation; (2) building fluency with addition and subtraction. This unit uses various problems, sorts, and hands-on activities; including mini-lessons that teachers can use during whatever time they have available. Lessons will be created for a thirty-minute block, but can easily be chunked to smaller time frames if needed. The plans will be written with small group instruction in mind, and will be best used for re-teach groups, math RTI, or special education small group settings. By the end of the unit, students should show a better understanding of mathematical word problem and how to solve them — with no focus at all of "find the clue word".