

Formative Assessment Task

First Grade: Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Standard 1.OA.3: Apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract.3

Examples: If $8 + 3 = 11$ is known, then $3 + 8 = 11$ is also known. (Commutative property of addition.) To add $2 + 6 + 4$, the second two numbers can be added to make a ten, so $2 + 6 + 4 = 2 + 10 = 12$. (Associative property of addition.)

Materials:

Unifix Cubes

Whiteboards or similar

Directions:

1. Gather blue and yellow Unifix cubes.
2. Connect a row of cubes by placing 7 blue cubes on the left and 3 yellow cubes on the right.
3. Have the student write the expression on their whiteboard.
4. Flip the row of cubes and have the student write the expression on their whiteboard.
5. Ask the student if the expressions are equal.
6. If the student answers correctly, compose another row of unifix cubes by placing 5 blue cubes on the left and 2 yellow cubes on the right.
7. Have the student create an equal expression with their cubes and write it on their whiteboard.

Considerations:

- Can the student write an expression that matches the unifix cubes?
- Does the student recognize the order of the addends does not change the sum?

Collecting Data:

Student performance can be recorded on an observation checklist.