Make and Take — Grade One

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The goal of this presentation was to give first-grade teachers materials and ideas to supplement their math program. Teachers like to have ideas to enhance their current program. Sometimes these are new ideas that they can implement and other times it is like a refresher of things they have done in the past and have not used for a period of time. They can also take an idea and change it to better meet their own needs.

We wanted to give the participants ideas to use to enhance their current math program. We concentrated on the areas of time, measurement, money, story problems, patterns, and number sense. We made packets of materials for each person to have samples of these ideas, and we tried to have these span from the beginning of the year when the topics are a refresher of kindergarten through the end of the year when students need things to challenge them. Some of our ideas were new things that many of the participants had not seen or heard of before, and some of them were things they may have experienced in the past but have not used recently. Many of the things we have used in the past can be changed to meet today’s standards. We wanted the participants to go home with something that they could use. There are many ideas already in their Everyday Math books, but we wanted to give them some alternatives.

Activities included:

- Teddy Bear job cards. These involve having students place cutout teddy bears on cards to represent different numbers. For example, to represent seven, seven bears can be placed on a card.
- Cutout and manipulative materials for representing combinations of two numbers in a variety of situations. For example, students can create problems by placing kernels of corn in two chicken dishes, making combinations of spaghetti and meatball or egg and bacon cutouts, combining light and dark green leaves, placing shells on pictures with sand and ocean spaces, or using two colors of candles for a birthday cake.
- Fraction subtraction pies. Students can use two paper plates to make a fraction
subtraction pie, which can be used to represent different fractional parts of a pie. This activity includes several story problems to be used with the pie.

- Tooth fairy money tree wheels. These wheels are used to show different combinations of two coins, and students can compute the amounts of money shown.
- Cuckoo clocksicles. Students can make paper cuckoo clocks for showing time.
- Pipe cleaner pals. Students make pipe cleaner figures, and they measure the length of each figure.
- Pattern block pictures. Students fill in shapes on pictures with pattern blocks or use pattern blocks to make pictures and picture books.
- Fish and Ships game. Students use a game cube (with sides of 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, and 5) to take turns using pattern blocks to fill in shapes on a game board.
- Picture/Number tile activities. There were several activities in which students use either picture or number tiles to work on number ordering, and one- and two-digit addition and subtraction tasks.
- Glyphs. Children have activities to do at home. Then the results are graphed in class, and the class writes sentences to go with the glyphs.

Reference books:

*Workjobs II: Number Activities for Early Childhood* by Mary Baratta-Lorton  
*Easy MathART Projects and Activities* by Cecilia Dino-Durkin  
*Math Discoveries with Pattern Blocks* by Shirley Hoogeboom  
*Try-A-Tile Cards PreK-6* by Marcy Cook  
*Glyphs: Data Communication for Primary Mathematicians* by Susan R. O’Connell