

CLASSROOM SUGGESTIONS

Class Pace

- Groups can progress at different paces, or you can individualize and have everyone at their own level.
- It is recommended that you have the entire class on the same lesson, unless you have either a student too far behind or a very advanced student, in which case you could order an Individual Student Set for the grade level needed.
- If the class is having trouble with a concept, take a day to work on it before starting the next lesson.
- If a significant number of children are not finishing within the allotted amount of time, or if more than 3 or 4 hands are up, it may indicate that the papers are too hard. It may be better to take two days to cover the lesson, and assign only half of the problems at a time. Your students need success with easier problems.
- It is better for the class to only get two-thirds of the way through the lessons, than to rush through the lessons and frustrate your students.
- All the concepts for this grade will be reviewed at the beginning of the next year.

Combination Classes

- The method found to be most successful is to have one grade level do work that does not require your attention while the other grade has their math lesson. After both lessons have been taught, they can all work on their Guided Practice at the same time while you circulate among them.
- The most important factor is to be sure when the students are working on the Guided Practice, there is someone (teacher, aide, older student) there who can assist when having trouble.
- Another method is to teach both lessons to both levels.

New Students

- When the class is on the Guided Practice, have the new student only do the problems with which they are familiar. Check for understanding as they work.
- Over the first few weeks, little by little teach them the concepts that are new to them individually.
- If they are of average ability or better, they will eventually catch up to the class. If they are too far behind, they may have to go back to the beginning of the year and work through each lesson.

Advanced Students

- What do you do with the students that finish their work ahead of the others? Since they are doing well in math, this would be a good time to put an extra effort into subject areas where they are not as strong, or provide enrichment activities or math games. Visit www.excelmath.com for web links.

Checking Papers

- As students work independently on the Lesson Sheets, check for understanding and mark answers correct on their papers, as you guide and observe them. Ask them to describe how they arrived at the answers.