# Ideas in Mathematics: 

Paper \& Pencil Strategies with Readily Available Manipulatives

## Readiness

Individual

Manipulatives are physical objects that can be used to explore mathematical concepts.

## Fast Facts:

- Manipulatives are recommended for students of all ages (yes, even middle school!)
- Determined to be effective for students with and without disabilities
o Concrete manipulatives: tangible objects used to build the foundational understanding
o Virtual manipulatives: interactive, web-based representations of objects used to connect to the abstract


## Tips for Use:

- Manipulatives should connect to the concept being taught and students' developmental level
- Instruction using manipulatives is an integral part of the concrete -> semi-concrete -> abstract sequence
- Manipulatives don't have to be expensive; many types of problems can be represented with manipulatives made from easily accessible materials!

Commonly Used Manipulatives:

## Base Ten Blocks



Shape Tiles

Beans \& Cups


Algebra Tiles


Unifix Cubes
Two-Colored Counters


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Algebra: Teaching of Supporting

## One way to utilize manipulatives is through

 mathematical modeling!Three types of of Models:

1. Area
2. Length of Measurement
3. Set

What types of manipulatives can be used with models?

Length Models

Fraction strips or Cuisenaire Rods

Number lines
HHHH

Folded paper strip diagrams


## Set Models

Two-colored counters


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| Task | Manipulatives | Example Problem | How to Use |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Measuring area and perimeter | - Card stock cut into squares of equal size <br> - l-inch square tiles | Angie used tape to make a square. What is the area of the square? | Use painter's tape to create a square on the floor or student desk. <br> Have students fill the square with squares cut from cardstock. <br> Using either the area formula or by adding up the squares inside the figure, students can solve. <br> *Each card/tile represents 1 square unit. |
| Fraction equivalencies | - Fraction tiles or paper strips <br> - Cuisenaire rods (if available) | Write an equivalent fraction to . <br> Use your fraction strips to justify your answer. | Students can use the fraction strips (or Cuisenaire rods, if available) to represent the pair of equivalent fractions. |
| Adding or Subtracting integers | - Ten frames with two-colored counters | Represent the subtraction problem below and find the solution. $13-8=$ | Point out that one red counter represents +1 and one yellow represents -1 . Have students use the ten frames and counters to represent the subtraction problem. |

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## Implementation Resources:

IRIS Modules: https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/math/cresource/q2/p05/
National Library of Virtual Manipulatves: http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html

