



Learning Resources®

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piezas  
pieces  
Teile

ages  
años • ans • jahre  
3+

6 Colors

# Link 'N' Learn® Links

Eslabones de plástico en cadena Link 'N' Learn® • Maillons de chaîne en plastique Link 'N' Learn® • Link 'N' Learn® Kettenglieder aus Kunststoff



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Set of 1000 • 6 Colors

Sort and Classify

Toss a pile of links onto a table and ask students to sort them. Observe how students make groups. Do they all sort by color? Ask younger students to sort their links into piles of two, three, or more. Older students can sort their links into groups and discuss factors and remainders. For example, give older students a number of links. Start with ten. Ask them to sort the links into piles of five. Now, sort the links into piles of three. Students will have one link left over. Five is a factor of ten, but three is not. Explore other possibilities.

Counting

Use links to help younger students develop counting skills and make connections between number values and symbols. Start with one link and add another as you count up a number line. Challenge older students to follow your counting patterns. Count to seven as students add on links, and then count down to five. Count up to eight from five. You are reinforcing counting skills while developing number facts, addition, subtraction, and listening skills!

It's Time!

Use links to keep track of important events! As special occasions draw near, you can use links to help children develop an awareness of time duration. If a celebration is two weeks away, encourage children to count off the days by placing a fourteen-link chain on the calendar. Students can remove a link for each day that passes.

Graphing

You can use links to help younger students learn "more" and "less." Graph the number of boys versus the number of girls in your classroom. Use links to illustrate your graph. Make connections between the number symbols and their values. Display two link chains, one with the number of boys and one with the number of girls. Discuss the lengths of each chain. Ask: "Are there more girls than boys or more boys than girls? How many more are there? How many links do we need to add to our chains to make them equal?" Graph other classroom events.

Measuring

Develop your students' measurement skills using the links as a non-standard unit of measure. Rulers, tape measures, wheels, and more conventional forms of obtaining exact measurements are confusing to young children. Students can add or remove links to measure the lengths of objects. After making a length chain, they can disassemble it and count the links or simply count the chain. Students will become logical thinkers as they re-create your patterns, and then develop their own. Make link chains and challenge students to copy them. Younger students can copy color patterns while older students can try and find the number pattern behind the color demonstration. Make a link chain with one red, two blue, three green, four yellow and so on. Younger students will match the colors while older students will notice the counting.

Patterns

