

THINKING WITH NUMBERS

Lesson Descriptions

Using Nice Numbers

Often when you can use an estimate for a computation, one of the easy ways to think is to use nice numbers that are close. For example, to estimate $73 - 26$, since 73 is about the same as 75 and 26 is about the same as 25, you can simply subtract $75 - 25$ to get 50. The answer is about 50. You might even note that the answer is slightly less than 50 because 73 is less than 75 and 26 is greater than 25. Depending on the context of the question you are trying to solve, that may be accurate enough to answer your question. For situations where the context of the question does not require a more accurate solution, using nice numbers that are close can be very efficient.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:

- to make sense of using nice numbers to estimate,
- to recognize that using nice numbers to estimate can be strategically efficient, given the context of the question, and
- to become proficient in using nice numbers to estimate.

