

THINKING WITH NUMBERS

Lesson Descriptions

Symbolic Procedures

Sometimes you may need a written record of an exact computation. For example, suppose you need to buy some materials for home repair. You may need to add some amounts to find the total of how much to buy. A written record of these computations is often helpful. Fortunately, by combining or separating hundreds, tens, and ones, children will be able to make sense of symbolic procedures to add and subtract. The trading, 10 ones for 1 ten or 1 ten for 10 ones, we do with base ten blocks helps children make sense of the "carrying" and "borrowing" we use to construct the written record.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:

- to make sense of representing numbers with base ten blocks, then combining or separating the blocks to answer computational problems,
- to create a symbolic procedure by learning how to record the actions with the base ten blocks on paper, and
- to become reasonably proficient with symbolic procedures.

