

Lunch Line

Purpose

Given an amount of money and a list of prices, students will use mental arithmetic to add and estimation to determine whether answers are reasonable in addition sentences.

Materials

For the teacher: *The Lunch Line* by Karen Berman Nagel, sample menu to show class

For each student: envelopes containing various amounts of play money (paper currency), paper, pencil

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Prepare a sample menu to display using whole number prices.

B. Introduction

1. Read the book *The Lunch Line* by Karen Berman Nagel aloud to the class.
2. Display the sample menu. Briefly go over the cost of each item.

C. Student Activity

1. Hand out the envelopes with the play money in them to the students.
2. Have students open their envelopes and count the money that they have been given.
3. Have students write down the items that they estimate they can buy with the amount of money they have.
4. Instruct students to check their estimations to see if they can buy what they want with the amount of money they have.
5. Have students trade envelopes with someone else and repeat the process.

connecting
across the
curriculum



English/ Language Arts

Tell the students that Alberto has a certain amount of money to buy lunch. He thinks that he can buy [insert items from the menu]. In their math journals, have students answer the following questions: Does Alberto have enough money? Explain how you decided. Are there any other items Alberto could buy with his money?

MEETING
INDIVIDUAL
NEEDS



Give students having difficulty with estimation play coins that more closely match the cost of the menu items. Work with them to estimate the cost by setting aside coins that closely match the cost of the items that they choose.


Standards Links
2.5.12, 2.6.3


Questions for Review


Basic Concepts and Processes


During the activity, discuss the following questions with your students to gauge their understanding of the Standard Indicators:

 Did you have enough money for the items that you chose?

 How did you decide what items to choose?

 How did you estimate the total cost of the items?

 How did you decide the actual total cost of the items?

 Where do you think you might have made a mistake?
