

How I Reinforced the Standards in my math class with the Standards Set Posters

Because my math lessons always include standards from more than one strand, The Standards Set posters make it really easy to show students how the strands are connected to what we are learning as we progress through the lesson.

Here is an example of how to use the posters while teaching a lesson on fractions.

When preparing for the lesson, I place a paperclip on the standards I am focusing on. In this case, I'm working on Number Sense 4.0 as the main objective. I'm also focusing on Mathematical Reasoning, as I encourage the students to write a story problem using the fractions skills we are learning today. So I'd also place a paperclip on the Mathematical Reasoning standard 1.1.

As the lesson begins, I focus the students' attention on the posters, where the bright green arrow is pointed at the Number Sense skill. We read the objective together. We discuss any words the students do not understand.

I continue my introduction by explaining that we will be using carrots to investigate equivalent fractions. After students begin working on their hands-on investigation with real carrots, creating halves, then cutting the halves into quarters, I notice that Anna and Maria are eating their fractions instead of focusing on the assignment. Joyce and Mirabella are throwing their quartered carrots at Jose and Trevon! Are these students in need of a bit of positive reinforcement?

I quickly jog over to the posters and give the class my "attention" signal. As the students quiet down and give me their attention, I re-focus them on their learning objective for the day. While doing so, I applaud the students who have been making progress toward understanding while I also have the opportunity to remind the class that we have many more objectives to master before the end of 2nd grade! This gentle reminder of why we are working with carrots is a very effective way to bring everyone back to the task at hand.

Later on, as we progress to the second part of the lesson, where students will apply what they've learned about equivalent fractions to the task of creating their own word problems, I'll move back to the posters, where I will flip to the paperclipped chart with the Mathematical Reasoning standard. We will begin this part of the lesson by reading the standard, discussing unfamiliar vocabulary, and we might even reference some of the English Language Arts standards we will also be covering, to reinforce the importance of those critical skills across subject areas.