Glossary

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TEACHER'S VOCABULARY LIST

Children need continuing practice in using a variety of language to describe mathematics and to explain their thinking.

additive Inverse	The opposite of a number that, when added to the original number equals 0 (2 + -2 = 0).
assigned value	A predetermined numeric amount.
attribute	An inherent characteristic such as the color, size, or shape of an object.
benchmark	A point of reference; a standard or level against which others can be measured.
categorical	Classification based on specific characteristics.
central tendency	A number that is most typical of a particular set of data.
measure of central tendency	The mean, median, or mode of a set of data.
compatible numbers	Numbers that, because of closeness, can be used as replacements to simplify computation. (For the product of 74 x 19, use 74 x 20 and subtract 74.)
compose or decompose (numbers)	Use numbers flexibly to create equivalent representations of numbers by combining or separating. (8 = 4 + 3 + 1, or 43 + 7 = 40 + 3 + 7 and 60 + 19 = 60 + 20 – 1 = 80 – 1 = 79)
compose or decompose (shapes and figures)	Build geometric shapes or figures from component parts or partition a geometric shape into its component parts. (Build a rectangle from 2 triangles or partition a trapezoid into a square and a triangle.)
construct	To build or to represent through a model.
congruent	Having exactly the same size and shape.
counting numbers	Positive whole numbers (or natural numbers) 1, 2, 3 and so on.
data	A collection of facts, numbers, measurements or symbols.

decompose	See compose.
differentiation	The process of teaching using diverse approaches to achieve the same instructional goal.
equivalent	Having the same or equal value.
formative assessment	Timely evaluation which informs and directs instruction.
function	A set of ordered pairs such that for any first number (the input) there is only one possible second number (the output).
generalizations	Statements characterizing the common nature of a group.
geometric sequence	Sequence of numbers that is created by multiplying the previous term by a constant (1, 2, 4, 8, 16).
graphic organizer	A tool such as a diagram, table, graph, or chart that is used to display data in a manner that makes it easier to understand and analyze.
growing pattern	A pattern that shows an arithmetic change between elements (2, 4, 6, 8 or triangular numbers).
inverse	Reciprocal or opposite of a number (see Additive Inverse and Multiplicative Inverse).
iteration	Repetition of a sequence of steps; repeating.
line graph	A graph that shows the one-to-one correspondence between two variables on a coordinate grid. A line graph can show change over time.
line plot	A graph showing the frequency of data by using marks to represent each item above a number on a number line.
mean (average)	A measure of central tendency of a set of data, found by adding the numbers of the set and dividing the sum by the number of members in the set.
multiplicative inverse	The reciprocal of a number that when multiplied with that number yields a product of 1. $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{2} = 1$
net	A two-dimensional pattern that can be folded into a three-dimensional solid.
number sense	A way of thinking and understanding about number, not a set of skills to be learned.
number sentence	An equation, without a variable, or a comparison (7 – 3 = 4; 12 < 15).

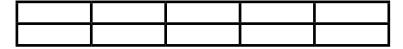|	
numeral	A symbol used to represent an amount or number.
numeric	Having to do with number.
numerical	Relating to numbers; expressed in numbers.
ordinal number	A number used when ordering elements in a set (first, third, fifth).
pictograph	A graph that uses pictures to show data, where each picture represents an amount established by a key.
picture graph	A pictograph that uses pictures to show data, where each picture stands for one.
process skill	NTCM Process Standards: problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, connections and representation.
properties	Features or characteristics of objects or substances; rules that are true in any given mathematical situation.
rational Numbers	Any number that can be expressed as a ratio (fraction).
real graph	A display of data using real objects.
reciprocal	The multiplicative inverse of a number (3 is the inverse of $^1/_3$).
referent	Object or point of reference for which a symbol stands.
region model	Visual representation using a two-dimensional grid.
relationships	Connections, links, bonds.
representations	Symbols used to depict various images.
statistical relationships	The interpretation of organized numerical data (mean, median, mode, range).
subitize	Instantly recognizing the amount of objects in a small group without having to count.
summative assessment	The final evaluation of a complete unit of study.
systematic	Methodical in procedure or plan.

ten frame   A visual organizer for counting.

timeline   A schedule of events or procedures.

translate patterns   Change the representation of a number or pattern. A/B to stomp/clap or ½ to 2/4

unit fraction   Fraction with one as the numerator.

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Math To Know: A Mathematics Handbook. Great Source Education Group
Math To Learn: A Mathematics Handbook. Great Source Education Group
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Illustrated Math Dictionary: An Essential Student Resource. DeKlerk. Good Year Books.