

# Contents of Math Tool Bags:

Created & shared by Glenna Tabor in hopes that all students, no matter where they are sitting, will be able to use concrete tools to explore math concepts

### Bag of Buttons (40-45 buttons-at least 20 of two different colors)

**Uses:** finding a pattern, creating the number five on a ten frame, concrete illustration of an abstract number sentence; flashcards come alive and have a concrete meaning when a learner places 5 buttons on one part of the mat, one button on the other part of the mat, then combines them to make...6!., avatar for board game, two different colors for positive and negative integers, compare and contrast based on characteristics, counting

### Bag of gemstones (15-20 assorted)

**Uses:** combine with or replace in uses for buttons; fractions, multiplication arrays, concrete illustration of basic facts and fact families, concrete representations of variables

### 1 deck of playing cards

**Uses:** combinations of numbers, integers, place value, data creation, fractions, ordinal numbers, making ten, combining to race to 100, subtracting to race to 0, decimal rummy, order of operation to make 24 with 4 cards

### Dice (2 of 2 different colors)

**Uses:** combining integers, generating numbers for addition and subtraction, generating factors for multiplication and division, creation of fact families, fractions, multiples

#### 1 roll of painter's tape

**Uses:** any concept that uses a number line, any concept that uses a cartesian plane and quadrants, linear and temperature measurement, 2-dimensional shapes, geometry concepts such as angles and two-dimensional shapes

#### Double read measuring tape and 12-inch acrylic ruler

Uses: measurement, number line activities

### Plastic bugs (15 assorted bugs)

**Uses:** represent variables in linear equations, multiplication and division arrays, area and perimeter, counting (all the concepts under buttons or bling)

## 2-Color Counters, 25

Uses: creating numbers on a ten frame, concrete illustration of an abstract number sentence, avatar for board game, two different colors for positive and negative integers representing and combining integers, arrays, concrete representation of subtraction problems, display part-part-whole

### Building bricks, 50 of assorted number of studs

**Uses:** illustrate fractions, build tens and ones, build three-dimensional shapes, spatial relationships, patterns, multiples, concretely represent algebraic expressions, multiplication and division

### 9"x12" felt sheets

Uses: work mat, defines work space, part-part-whole mat, muffles noise

Index cards or post-it notes (1 pack of multi-colored)Uses: any game or activity that needs to have an icon, a number, or a label

### Craft sticks (50 per student)

Uses: tens and ones with beans, build geometry shapes, angles, and lines, provide random responses in games, place value

### 3-4 sheets of stickers

Uses: reward for working hard, winning, or simply for showing up!

# Hefty 2.5 gallon zippered bag, 1 per student

**Use:** this is the bag for all of the items.

Additional items that can be printed from a free download on glennatabor.com for use during problem solving and concept exploration. Most useful at the elementary level.

- 1. 2 part/part/whole work mats
- 2. 2 ten frames
- 3. 2 double ten frames
- 4. Point Sheet