

Estimate, Then Measure

Elaboration 5 · Estimating before measuring

ELABORATION FOCUS

Making a sensible estimate first, then measuring with uniform informal units and comparing the estimate with the real count.

LEARNING INTENTION I can estimate first, then measure and compare.

Estimate

Measure it

Count it

Compare

Say why

1

Estimate First

Step 1: pick one unit. Step 2: guess how many will fit, and say the number.

2

Measure and Count

Step 3: place the unit end to end with no gaps. Step 4: count as you go.

3

Compare and Explain

Step 5: compare the estimate with the real count. Step 6: say how close you were.

MODEL · ONE DESK, ESTIMATE AND REAL COUNT

The same desk is estimated first, then measured with blocks.

Estimate compared with the real count

Real measure



My estimate



Estimate 9 · real count 6 · out by 3

The estimate was 9 blocks and the real count was 6, so the guess was 3 too many. Estimating first helps us notice.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Changing the estimate after measuring, or guessing wildly without looking at the unit first.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "Guess it, measure it, check it."

MATERIALS

Blocks, paper clips, unifix cubes, desks and books, recording sheets.