

Messy Math Box

Big Ideas of Math Assessment and Analysis:

- Students may get the right answers for the wrong reasons.
- Good questions and tasks provoke students to show us what they know and understand.
- Seeing the pattern in students' responses helps us plan effective learning experiences.
- Balance of correcting and analysis

Big Ideas of Math Manipulatives:

- Manipulatives are readily available any time, any place.
- Students have a variety of math tools at their disposal at any time.
- Using manipulatives helps students to visualize concepts: making the abstract concrete and helping students to transition from the concrete to the abstract.
- A given type of object can represent different values from one day to the next; students can assign and record these values with a key, and make a new key each day if they wish.
- When students have a packet of inexpensive, replaceable math manipulatives that they can use at home, this promotes the home-school connection:
- They can put hands-on math in the middle of family life. (The refrigerator)
- They can get families talking about math in meaningful ways.
- They involve parents in a new way, so that they can help support the conceptual understanding as well as skill development.
- Families can brainstorm and use an endless variety of manipulatives.
- When hands-on math becomes part of daily life, families often find more and more ways to engage in real-life math explorations (for instance, during cooking or shopping).
- The manipulatives are available during the summer and in later years.

How to Make a Messy Math Box:

1. Find a container with a lid; shoeboxes will work as well.
2. Place any loose object that could be used "in a jiffy" to support counting, measuring, or building a concrete model of a math problem.
3. Place the Messy Math Box in a communal area where all learners can have access.

Free and Inexpensive Math Box Items:

Lids to containers	Cardboard	Magnets	Small or large boxes	Buttons
Toothpicks	Popsicle sticks	Shoestrings	Pipe Cleaners	Tangrams
Pattern Blocks	Fun Foam	String	Attribute Blocks	Coins
Stuffed Animals				