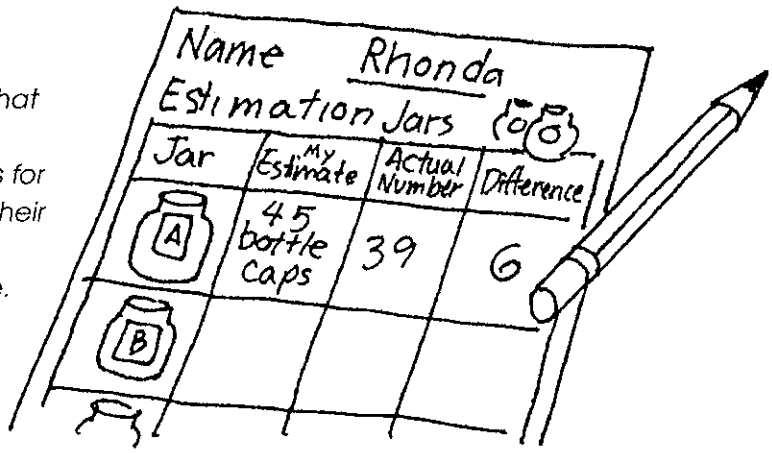
Estimating

One of the most important concepts that students learn through estimation activities is that it is not always necessary to find an exact answer. Help students develop basic strategies for arriving at reasonable estimates and refining their estimates. These center activities focus on estimating quantity, area, and duration of time.



Estimation Jars

Teaching Tips and Extensions

- ☆ Fill each jar with a different kind of object. Use a total number of objects appropriate for your students.
- As an alternative, vary the sizes of the jars but use the same objects in all the jars.
- Have an estimation contest with a jar of jelly beans or other treat.

Materials

- ☐ Estimation Jars reproducibles (pages 37–38)
- ☐ 5 identical jars, labeled *A, B, C, D, E*
- ☐ bottle caps, blocks, toy figures, walnuts, crayons, or other objects to fill the jars

Estimating Area

Materials

- ☐ Estimating Area reproducibles (pages 39–40)
- ☐ 6–8 pieces of yarn cut in various lengths, ranging from 15" (38 cm) to 40" (102 cm)
- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ small cubes

Teaching Tips and Extensions

- Make sure students securely tape the ends of each piece of yarn together.
- Have students work on a textured surface. The yarn shape tends to change on smooth surfaces.
- Ask students to describe the difference between the shape that held the most cubes and the shape that held the least cubes.

Estimating Time

Teaching Tips and Extensions

- Teach students how to operate a stopwatch. If the wall clock has a second hand, students could use it to time the activities.
- Remind students to use the most appropriate unit of time (seconds or minutes) when making estimates.

Materials

- ☐ Estimating Time reproducibles (pages 41–42)
- ☐ stopwatches with second hands

Name _____

Estimating Area

My Shape	My Estimate	Actual Number