

## **ABOUT THIS MATH PROGRAM**

This standards-based resource was created to reinforce and enhance students' knowledge of essential math skills found in math texts at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. The content of the *Core Math Skills Program* supports focused and comprehensive instruction. The frequent practice is designed to help students achieve mastery levels. This program can be very beneficial for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, as well as for older students whose skills are below grade level. The easy-to-use practice pages are ideal for daily warm-ups, quick assessment tools, or helpful reviews. Teachers will also find the activities very effective when used as bell work and/or homework.

The essential math objectives (or skills) addressed in this program are aligned to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards. As well, they correlate to the Common Core State Standards.

### **Research**

The practice activities in the *Core Math Skills Program* were used by four 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom teachers over a three-year period to help assess, diagnose, and develop students' skills, as well as to help prepare students for their state's Core Curriculum Test. Results each year showed that more students achieved "Advanced" performance level than "Proficient" level on the test. The activities in this program were used in addition to other instructional material and assessments. The teachers believed that the practice in this program played an important role in their students' excellent test scores.

### **Components**

The *Core Math Skills Program* includes two binders and a whiteboard-ready resource CD. *Binder 1* features 75 Daily Practice lessons, which target 25 essential math objectives, answer key, Student Progress Chart, and a Scope & Sequence Chart. *Binder 2* includes 250 pages of Extra Practice activities (10 pages for each of the 25 objectives), 25 Objectives Tests (10-question assessments), answer keys, and a Student Progress Chart. The resource CD contains Adobe Acrobat® PDF files of the content in both binders, as well as a Microsoft Excel® file of the Student Progress Charts.

### **Questions**

The questions are formatted in two different ways – multiple choice and free response. Since most students must have constant review in order to reach mastery levels, the 25 math objectives are found throughout the 75 Daily Practice lessons. For example, place value is concentrated on at the beginning of *Binder 1*, then omitted in the middle of the binder, but then reviewed again in the last section of the binder. The objectives are presented in sequential order according to difficulty level. For example, first students must identify fractions, then compare fractions, and finally order fractions.

## **USING THE MATH PROGRAM**

As students begin each new activity page, they are asked to write their name, date, and current time of day. Writing the time of day helps reinforce time-telling skills, which are important to reinforce at this grade level.

### **Binder 1**

We suggest using three Daily Practice lessons per week. The following is an example of how to incorporate the *Binder 1* Daily Practice activities into your classroom: On Monday, complete the first Daily Practice lesson as a class so the students can see the skills for the week. On Wednesday, have the students do the next Daily Practice lesson independently and then make necessary corrections the next day. On Friday, allow the students to complete the Daily Practice lesson on their own for a grade.

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### **Binder 1** (*continued*)

To use the program on a daily basis, simply begin a couple of months into the school year and extend it through the end of the school year. Or, begin the program at the start of the school year and use the Extra Practice pages from *Binder 2* to concentrate on skill deficit areas after students have completed the Daily Practice in *Binder 1*.

### **Binder 2**

After teaching skills in your current math curriculum, give students a 10-question Objectives Test for a particular skill from *Binder 2* to determine whether or not the students have learned the skill to mastery level. If a student does not pass the test, give the student an Extra Practice page on the skill every day until three scores of 100 have been achieved. There are only four questions on each Extra Practice page. This will allow for some quick one-on-one tutoring each day the student does not achieve a perfect score.

### **Charts**

The Student Progress Charts are provided on the resource CD in *Microsoft Excel*® format. You may input data into the electronic files directly on the computer, or you may print the pages and analyze students' work using paper and pencil.

Use the Daily Practice: Student Progress Chart (see *Binder 1*, Pg. viii) to record the number of questions missed (-1, -2, etc.) on the Daily Practice lessons. Begin by listing the students' names, and then write the Daily Practice lesson numbers (#1, #2, etc.) in the blank boxes adjacent to the students' names.

Use the Tests & Extra Practice: Student Progress Chart (see *Binder 2*, Pg. iii) to record individual student scores for each Objectives Test and Extra Practice pages.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is a long-term process that takes place on a continuing basis as students work to reach mastery levels. It is important to analyze the data collected on an ongoing basis to determine any need for additional instruction and/or more practice.

The four 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers who used the program over a three-year period assessed their students on every third Daily Practice lesson from *Binder 1* (#3, #6, #9, etc.). The students also were given every Objectives Test from *Binder 2* throughout the year after they received comprehensive instruction on each skill. Students who did not pass the Objectives Test(s) were further assessed with the Extra Practice pages from *Binder 2*.