MATH — NUMBERED WALL TOUCHES — grades K-3

What is it? (Rationale)

Many times children have a hard time understanding the concept of even and odd numbers in mathematics. This activity helps them to comprehend even and odd numbers through the use of movement.

Getting Started (Procedures & Materials)

This activity can be done in a classroom that has some room in it or in a hallway. Place a long strip of tape (long enough for all of the children in your class to stand on either in the center of the classroom or down the middle of the hallway. Then tape pieces of paper with odd numbers on one side of the wall. Do the same with the even numbers on the opposite wall. Have the students stand on the tape facing you. Explain to the children that you will call out either an odd number or an even number each time and that examples of the odd and even numbers are taped to the wall for visual clues. Tell the students that when you call out a number, they are to side shuffle to the correct side of the room or hallway, touch the wall, then side shuffle back to the midline.

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Adaptations

You could hold up a paper with the number written on it for a visual clue.
If you have some children miss on larger numbers such as "27," you could have seven children come to the front of the room (since the number in the one's column is seven) and have the children pair-up. You will have three pairs of two children and one odd person without a pair. Use this to illustrate how odd numbers work. If it is an odd number, there is always one person who will not be teamed with someone.
You could have the children move back and forth in any form of movement you or the children design.
For older children, you could use this activity as a review or a test by having them call out the multiples of the number that you gave them as they moved towards the wall. (9 x 3 = 27)
You may increase the level of physical activity by using a variety of locomotive skills.

Notes

For younger students this could be a good way of reviewing direction concepts such as left/ right, front/back, towards/away, etc.
To challenge older students, try using prime numbers. If the number called is a prime, go to the left, if it's not, go to the right.

DOMAINS ADDRESSED

Body Image
Laterality
Language

Balance
General Coordination
Tactile Touch

None

Best Effort

Numbered Wall Touches

Wall

27	5	13

CENTER LINE STUDENTS STAND ON

18	2	50

Wall