

Web-based Mathematics Activities for the Early Years

Web-based Mathematics Activities for the Early Years, an English adaptation of *Unidades de Aprendizaje con apoyo TIC para Matemáticas*, developed by the Instituto de Informática Educativa (IIE) at the Universidad de La Frontera, Temuco, Chile, provides a space where young children and their teacher or parents can explore number concepts. Colourful graphics present objects which can be moved around, grouped, and counted. While solving problems, children can employ tools such as a number line, hundreds chart, counting blocks, and a pencil for marking off items.



The package contains sequences of activities along with suggested instructional approaches, but teachers and their pupils are not restricted to these and can easily make up their own questions to fit the pictures and take their own approaches to solving problems. Recent curriculum changes in Ontario emphasize mathematics learning through investigations, student-student interaction, and math-talk. The images from *Web-based Mathematics Activities for the Early Years*, when displayed on a large screen, provide opportunities for a class to talk about and explore mathematical situations.

Children's interaction with the package can be further increased with the use of the interactive whiteboards presently being installed in many Ontario schools. These permit pupils to manipulate the objects and tools within the software by just touching the screen.

The Faculty of Education, Queen's University is very excited about this opportunity to work with our Chilean partners to bring an exciting new resource to Ontario's families and classrooms.

The *Web-based Mathematics Activities for the Early Years* package may be found on the Web at: http://resources.educ.queensu.ca/early_years_math/