

Integrating Arithmetic and Algebra

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Summary

Students who have not mastered their basic facts should not be held back from developing deeper critical thinking skills. You can integrate basic arithmetic and algebra, even with students who are working on basic addition facts. Research into how children learn math suggests that one reason students have difficulty moving from basic arithmetic to algebra is because of their notion of what the equal sign means. Rather than thinking of the equal sign as a sign of equality – what's on one side of the equal sign is the same as what's on the other side, students think of the equality sign as an indication to perform an operation.

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