

You don't need to differentiate everything - It's the BIG IDEAS that make a difference


A professional learning seminar presented by
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OVERVIEW:

- Targeted Teaching
- The 'big ideas in number F - 10
- SNMY
- The Assessment for Common Misunderstandings Tools*




* These are an extended version of the Probe Tasks referred to in *Talking Namba* (NT Department of Education)

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Notion of **targeted teaching** that requires:

- **access to assessment techniques** that expose student's thinking;
- a **grounded knowledge of learning trajectories** (key steps in the development of big ideas and how to scaffold these);
- an **expanded repertoire of teaching approaches** which accommodate and nurture discourse, help uncover and explore student's ideas in constructive ways, and ensure all students can participate in and contribute to the enterprise;



- **sufficient time with students to develop trust and supportive relationships;** and
- **flexibility to spend time with the students who need it most.**

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This is particularly important in relation to a relatively small number of 'big' ideas and strategies in Number, without which students' progress in mathematics will be seriously impacted

(Siemon, 2006).

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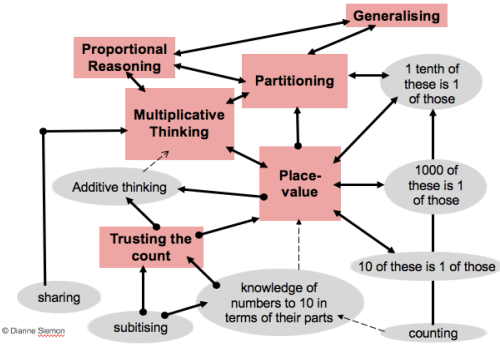
What is a 'big idea'?

- An idea, strategy, or way of thinking about some key aspect of mathematics, **without which students' progress in mathematics will be seriously impacted**
- Encompasses and **connects many other ideas and strategies**
- Provides an **organising structure** or a frame of reference that supports further learning and generalisations
- Cannot be clearly defined but can be **observed in activity ...**

(Siemon, 2006)

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The 'BIG IDEAS' in Number



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The big ideas in Number F-10

By the end of:	Year F/mid Yr 1	Trusting the count - developing flexible mental objects for the numbers 0 to 10, part-part-whole knowledge
	Year 2	Place-value - the importance of moving beyond counting by ones, the structure of the base ten numeration system
	Year 4	Multiplicative thinking (initial ideas) - the key to understanding rational number and developing efficient mental and written computation strategies in later years
	Year 6	Partitioning (equal parts) - the missing link in building common fraction and decimal knowledge and confidence
	Year 8	Proportional reasoning - extending what is known beyond rule-based procedures to represent and solve problems involving fractions, decimals, percent, ratio, rate and proportion
	Year 10	Generalising/Formalising - skills and strategies to support equivalence, recognition of number properties and patterns, and the use of algebraic text

(Siemon, 2006; 2011)

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Evidence (MYNRP, SNMY & RMF Projects)

- As much difference within Year levels as between Year Levels
- Considerable within school variation
- The needs of many students, but particularly those 'at risk' or 'left behind', are not being met.
- Differences in performance were largely due to an inadequate understanding of fractions, decimals, and proportion, and a reluctance/inability to explain/justify solutions (i.e. Multiplicative Thinking)
- At least 30% and up to 55% of Year 8 students do not have access to multiplicative thinking

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An 8 year range....

LAF Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Expected by	End of Year 1	End of Year 2	End of Year 3	End of Year 4	End of Year 5	End of Year 6	End of Year 7	End of Year 8
Year 4	6	6	5	5	2	1	1	0
Year 5	3	5	5	5	2	3	2	0
Year 6	1	2	3	5	4	5	5	1
Year 7	1	2	2	6	3	3	6	1
Year 8	1	1	2	6	4	5	5	2

Implied class distribution by Year Level based on SNMY data (2004) – possible groupings

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The 'shallow teaching syndrome'

The TIMSS Video Study of Year 8 mathematics classrooms in 7 countries found that while the Australian lessons had the second highest proportion of real-life contexts, they had the **highest proportion of similar problems and problems of low procedural complexity ...** (Vincent & Stacey, 2008)

In her study of primary teachers beliefs and practices, Anderson (1998) found that while some primary teachers reported using open ended and unfamiliar mathematics problems on regular basis, the **majority used traditional exercises or application type problems** on a regular basis.

Types of questions	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Exercises	66	29	5
Application Problems	68	28	4
Open-ended Problems	18	58	24
Unfamiliar Problems	10	52	38

Proportion (%) of teachers reporting frequency of use of different question/problem types (Anderson, 1998, p. 9)

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Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years – Class based tools

From the Assessment Materials for Multiplicative Thinking (SNMY, 2006)

Total Score	LAF Level	Level Description
41-47	8	Can use appropriate representations, language and symbols to solve and justify a wide range of problems involving rational multiplication, division, addition, subtraction and decimals. Can apply partitioning strategies to solve problems involving rational numbers and fractions. Beginning to work more systematically with complex, open-ended problems.
35-40	7	Able to solve and explain one-step problems involving multiplication and division with whole numbers using informal strategies and formal recording. Can solve and explain solutions to problems involving simple patterns, percent and proportion. May not be able to solve multi-step or multi-stage problems or identify, justify or explain numbers or use formal problem-solving strategies. Can use efficient partitioning strategies. Beginning to make connections between problems and solution strategies and how to communicate this mathematically.
29-34	6	Can work with the Linkage Project (LP) each idea to systematically list or determine the number of options. Can solve a simple range of multiplication and division problems involving 2 digit numbers, patterns and proportion that may be too complex to solve by listing. Can use efficient partitioning strategies to locate simple fractions. Developing sense of proportion. Can create or explain or justify finding. Developing a degree of control with working mentally with multiplication and division facts.
20-28	5	Systematically solves simple proportion and ratio problems requiring multiplicative thinking. May use additive thinking to solve simple proportion problems involving fractions. Able to solve simple ratio problems using a recognised representation but finds this difficult for larger numbers. Able to order numbers involving tens, ones, tenths and hundredths in supportive context. Able to determine

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Rich tasks and scoring rubrics.

CD SALES

The manager of a Music shop showed the graph and said "There's been a big increase in the number of CD sales this month."

Do you consider the Manager's statement to be a reasonable interpretation of the graph? Explain your reasoning.

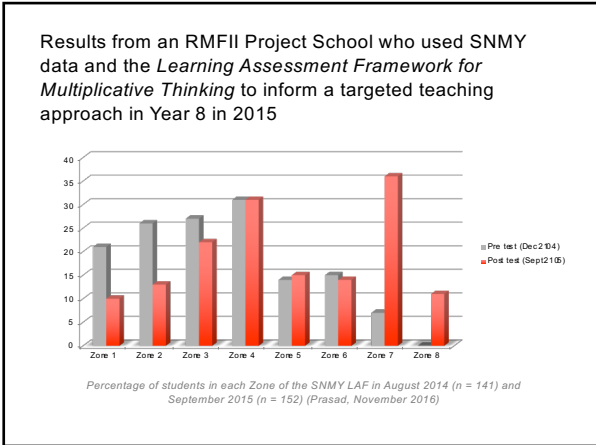
No because the increase has been exaggerated.

If you were to go from zero you would see that the increase isn't very large. The graph above only shows the top of the graph so it looks bigger.

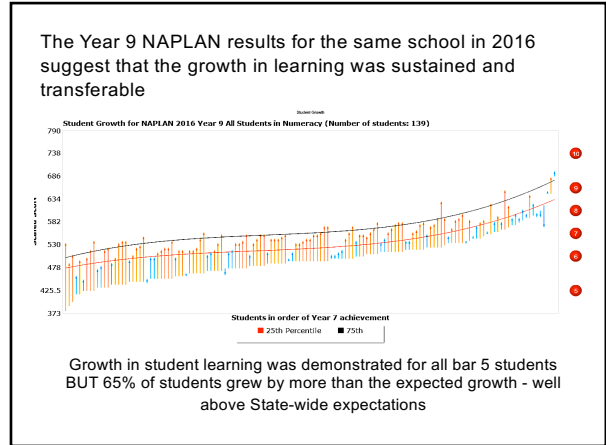
- No response or 'yes' or 'no' without a reason.
- Reasoning based on numbers alone, no recognition that 'big' is relative.
- Reasoning shows some recognition that 'big' is relative to total sales, but unsupported conclusion, little/no explanation, eg, "it depends ...".
- Reasoning concludes that increase is not 'big' relative to total sales, some attempt to relate this to proportion, eg, "15 out of 725 is not very big".
- Correct conclusion, "not big", %, fractions, ratio used correctly to support well-reasoned explanation.

From the Middle Years Numeracy Research Project (Siemon, Virgona & Cornielle, 2001)

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Assessment for Common Misunderstandings – Individual diagnostic tools

6.3 Understanding Scale Factors Tool

Materials:
 2 Pentagon Cards (cut out so that they can be manipulated, see Level 5 Resources)
 Dot Paper Worksheet (see Level 5 Resources)
 Map Worksheet (see Level 5 Resources) and pen
 A ruler

Instructions:
 Place the two cards in front of the student and say, "What can you tell me about these two shapes?" ... Note student's response, then say, "How would you tell a friend to draw the large shape if you could only show them the small shape?" Note student's response.
 Place the Dot Paper Worksheet in front of the student and say, "Could you make this shape half as big please?" Note and retain student's response.
 Place the Map Worksheet in front of student and say, "This is a map of a suburb in Perth. Can you find Nicholson Road?" Point to the scale and ask, "Can you tell me what this means?" ... Can you give me an example?"
 If no response, say, "If you walked the full length of Arthur Street (indicate this, it is just to the right of the red star), about how far would you have walked?" Note student's response, then say, "It walks to Rosalie School which is here (indicate the red star). She lives on the corner of Nicholson and Rupert Street (indicate). About how far does she walk to school in the morning?" ... Indicate that the bottom of the page can be used for any working required. Note student's response and ask learner to explain their reasoning.
 If correct (ie. about 275 metres), say, "Thuan lives on the corner of Redfern Street and View Street (indicate upper left hand corner of the map). About how far does he have to ride to school?" Note student's strategy and response in each case, retain any working.

Resources

Diagnostic Tool

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Diagnostic Tool

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Advice

6.3 Understanding Scale Factors Tool
 Proportional reasoning is often more apparent in relation to visual images, eg. recognising shapes that have been enlarged or reduced, than it is in word problems that require interpretation relative to context. However, where students have had a limited exposure to the unit and strategies needed to extend and reduce, it is important to ensure that students have a different opportunity for the re-interpretation of the unit. One of these is the opportunity to focus on areas when attempting to identify how many times larger the shape is of a smaller, similar shape.

This task examines the extent to which students are able to recognise and describe enlargements, and use a scale factor to reduce a shape and estimate distances on a scale map.

Diagnostic response: May not understand the spatial task or have access to the skills and strategies needed to interpret maps.
Literacy response, possibly: Enlarge that what is meant by statements such as, "3 times as big" or "half the size" is not understood, or they are not included and interpreted relative to context.
Low map reading, dot paper, pen and paper skills: Inability to use the map to create a scale drawing, or to use the map to create a scale drawing to create a scale drawing.
Scale drawing to create a scale drawing: Inability to use the map to create a scale drawing, or to use the map to create a scale drawing to create a scale drawing.
Proportion opportunities to work with maps and scale diagrams: Note that the map is a scale diagram, and that the map is a scale diagram, and that the map is a scale diagram.

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Advice

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Trusting the Count ...

Trusting the count has a range of meanings:

- initially, children believe that if they counted the same collection again, they would get the same result and they recognise that counting is a strategy to determine how many*
- Ultimately, it is about having access to a range of **mental objects** for each of the numbers to ten, which can be used flexibly without having to make, count or see these collections physically.

* WA Department of Education, *First Steps in Mathematics* (2004)

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Subitising Tool (1.1)

Student:	Date:	
Card Set:	Pile A	Pile B
1. Single Digit (2, 4, 5, 8, 10)		
2. Ten-Frame Doubles (1, 3, 4, 6, 9)		
3. Ten-Frame To Five (3, 6, 8, 0)		
4. Ten-Frames Random (2, 4, 5, 7, 10)		
5. Two Ten-Frames (12, 14, 17, 19)		

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Mental Objects Tool (1.2)

There are 5 here and 4 under the container ...
How many altogether?
Three levels of response ...

- perceptual,
- figural, and
- abstract Steffe, 1988)

This tool assesses students part-part-whole knowledge for the numbers to ten and beyond

Mental Objects Tool from the *Assessment for Common Misunderstandings*
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/maths/common/default.htm>

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Place-Value ...

Children can be formally introduced to place-value as a system of recording numbers when they:

- can **comfortably count** to 20 and beyond;
- know the numbers 0 to 10 in terms of their parts (i.e., **part-part-whole knowledge**);
- can work flexibly with numerals to 10 without having to model the count (**trust the count**);
- interpret/visualise **numbers beyond ten** in terms of 1 ten and 4 more, "fourteen";
- recognise numbers to 10 as **countable units** for the purposes of counting, eg, 2, 4, 6, 8 ...)

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Number Naming Tool (2.1)

Circle the 6 and ask: What has this got to do with what you've got there?
Then circle the 2 and ask: What has this got to do with what you've got there?

Ask student to count and record how many ...

Make 34 ...
Observe response

Then ask student to count counters, record and make groups of four ... Repeat earlier questions ...

If appropriate, ask students to count forwards and backwards using a 0-99 Number Chart and mask provided

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Renaming and Counting Tool (2.4)

3 hundreds 17 tens 6 ones

Students are asked to write the number shown ... If you could only use tens, how many needed?

Students are asked to write the number ... name a number smaller than this but bigger than 50 ... write the number 2 tens larger

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673 Read the number ... smaller than this but bigger than 517 ... at least 1 ten larger but smaller than 968

Read and count on by ones ... what number is 1 ten smaller than this?

5308

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Multiplicative Thinking ...

- a capacity to **work flexibly and efficiently with an extended range of numbers**;
- an ability to **recognise and solve a range of problems involving multiplication or division** including direct and indirect proportion; and
- the **means to communicate this effectively in a variety of ways** (e.g., words, diagrams, symbolic expressions, and written algorithms).

Simon, 2004)

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Note: Arrays and Regions (Year 2 to 3) support a critical shift in thinking

From counting equal groups:

1 three, 2 threes, 3 threes, 4 threes, ...

That is, the traditional focus on the **number in each group** and **how many groups**

1 × 3
2 × 3
3 × 3
4 × 3
...

To a focus on the number of groups:

3 ones, 3 twos, 3 threes, 3 fours, ...

3 × 1
3 × 2
3 × 3
3 × 4
...

and **generalising:**

3 groups of ... is double the group and 1 more group.

This introduces the **factor** idea for multiplication

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Additive Strategies Tool (3.2)

Do you agree that the sum of these numbers is 9?
Explore the thinking involved and identify strategies.
Stop as soon as student experiences difficulty.

3	2
4	9

Sum of 3, 2 and 4

6	8
9	

	5
7	24

Assesses student's capacity to add and subtract mentally

34	72
58	

18	
22	87

From the Assessment for Common Misunderstandings
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/maths/common/default.htm>

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Sharing & Array and Regions Tools (3.3 & 3.4)

Can you share these among 6?

Assesses student's capacity to share equally, recognise commutativity, and work with the language and ideas of multiplication

Same or different?

Imagine you have 2 lollies and your sister has 3 times as many ... How many lollies does your sister have?

Assesses extent to which student's can work with arrays and regions

How many dots altogether?
How many name-tags like this could be made from a sheet of paper this size?

From the Assessment for Common Misunderstandings
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/maths/common/default.htm>

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Cartesian Product Tool (3.5)

How many different T-shirts?

T-Shirts on Special Only \$9.89
3 colours (white, black, blue)
4 sizes (S, M, L, XL)

Representations and/or strategies used point to student's capacity to work with the 'for each' idea:
Additive if all possibilities listed and counted
Multiplicative if multiplication recognised as the appropriate operation

Claire ordered a peanut-butter roll and a drink. What might she have ordered?

Claire's class has 23 students. If everyone ordered a roll with a filling and a drink, could they all have a different lunch order?

LUNCH ORDERS		
Rolls	Fillings	Drinks
White	Peanut butter	Orange Juice
Multi-grain	Salad	Apple Juice
	Cheese and vegemite	Cola
	Tuna and lettuce	

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Partitioning (equi*)

Is evident when students:

- use halving or related strategies to locate common fractions on a number line;
- estimate thirds and fifths by building on what is known (e.g., a third is smaller than a half ... a fifth is smaller than a quarter);
- use fraction models to rename, compare and order fractions; and
- reason multiplicatively to construct decimal representations on an open number line.

*Confrey et al, 2009

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Equal Parts Tool (4.1)

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS - LEVEL 4 RESOURCES
Equal Parts Cards:

Worksheet 1:

Shade to show 2 fifths

Shade to show 2 thirds

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Fraction Making Tool (4.3)

Assesses student's capacity to generate fraction models

(a) Can you give me half? ... 1 third? ... 5 eighths?

(b) Cut to make 8 equal pieces ... If 3 quarters of the pizza was eaten, show how much was eaten.

(c) Can you use the ball of plasticine to show 5 thirds?

(d) Can you use these to show 2 and 5 sixths?

(e) Divide this rectangle into 3 equal parts ... name of each part?

(f) Can you divide this line into 5 equal parts? Name of each part?

(g) If this is 2 thirds, what is 1?

(h) Where is 1?

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Proportional Reasoning

(a) ... Who grew faster ... Amy or Richard*?

(b) .. Which tree grew more?

(c) ... If the red rod is 1, what would the yellow rod be? ... How many times longer is the yellow rod than the red rod? ..

(d) The purple rod is 2. What fraction name would you give to the blue rod? ...What fraction is the pink rod of the blue rod?

* Adapted from Lamon (2001) for the ACM Tools

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Generalising

(a) Some of these statements are true and some are false. Without calculating can you tell me which ones are true and which ones are false and why?

(b) How much does each item cost*?

$5 + 2 + 6 = 14 - 1$
$3.8 + 4.5 = 4.5 + 3.8$
$\frac{3}{8} - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{3}{8}$
$18 \times 27 + 19 = 27 + 19 \times 18$
$4 \times 5\frac{3}{4} = 5 \times 4 + \frac{3}{4} \times 4$
$83 \div 83 = 0$

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Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years

The Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years 2003-2006 (SNMY) was an Australian Research Council Linkage Project awarded to RMIT University, the Victorian Department of Education and Training and the Tasmanian Education Department from July 2003 to June 2006.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/assessment/Pages/scaffoldnum.aspx>

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