

Collaborative Team Task: Mathematical Practice 7

One opportunity for grade 1 and 2 students to consider structure is in determining related sums and differences. For instance, ask students, “What are different ways to make 27?”

Possible student answers may be:

$$20 + 7$$

$$30 - 3$$

$$10 + 10 + 7$$

Teachers can then ask probing questions like, “How do you know your responses are correct?” “What is another way you can use 20 and 7 together to make 27?” “Can you make 27 with 4 addends?”

In your collaborative team, discuss the variety of ways each of you might address these examples of structure. How could they be connected to properties for addition, such as the commutative or associative properties?

Discuss other areas of the mathematics curriculum in which structure is important though perhaps initially hidden from learners. Share ways you have addressed this phenomenon in your collaborative team.