Developing Thinkers, Not Answer Finders



https://www.flickr.com/photos/thebakkenmuseum/

Problem Solvers, not Performers



• Estimating quantities



Noticing similarities and differences



• Counting in many ways

About how many cheeseballs do you think are in this container?



What's an estimate that is too high?



What's an estimate that is too high? Is that a little too high or a lot too high?



http://www.estimation180.com/day-209.html

What's an estimate that is too high? Is that a little too high or a lot too high?

Too low?



What's an estimate that is too high? Is that a little too high or a lot too high?

Too low? A little too low or a lot too low?



Now that we've decided there are more than _____ cheeseballs and less than _____ cheeseballs, let's see how many there

are...

Watch it at: http://www.estimation180.com/day-209.html



- Applicable to real-life
- Reinforces that sometimes *close enough* is *right*.
- Can be done in almost any situation.



Tips for Building Good Estimators

- **DON'T** judge the estimate. Let them be wrong.
- DO ask and encourage questions and revisions.
- **DO** estimate frequently and in varied situations.



The Power of Noticing



Young children's ability to spot patterns can predict later mathematical achievement, more than other abilities such as counting. – Rittle-Johnson et al, 2016

We live in a universe of patterns. Mathematics is the study of patterns. – Merliyn Buchanan, 2011

The Power of Noticing

Why Doesn' t It Belong



Adapted from http://wodb.ca/

Tips for Building Noticing Skills



- **DO** ask and encourage questions.
- DO ask, "What else?"
- **DON'T** value one "noticing" as better than another.







https://www.stenhouse.com/content/how-many



If I asked you the question, "How many?" about this image, what would you think I meant?



If I asked you the question, "How many?" about this image, what would you think I meant?

What else could I mean besides, "How many dice?"



How many... ...dice? ...red dice? ...white dice ...dots? ...1s? ...3s? ...black dots? ...white dots?

Tips for Opening Up Thinking



- DO ask, "What else?"
- **DO** ask, "How did you get that?"
- **DO** ask, "What's another way to count how many?"
- **DON'T** limit answers/methods.

https://www.stenhouse.com/content/how-many