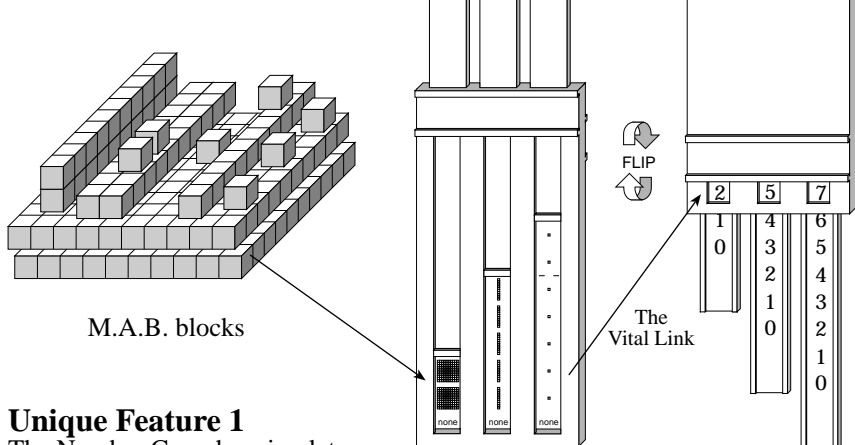


Unique Features - The Teacher's Answer To Helping Students Understand Place Value

The Number Cruncher takes over where M.A.B. blocks leave off.



Unique Feature 1

The Number Cruncher simulates M.A.B. blocks.

Benefits

They are quieter to use and quick to give out and collect. They provide a visual pattern to assist students in understanding numbers in abstract (digital) form.

Unique Feature 2

The Number Cruncher locks concrete into place value.

Benefits.

They provide a concrete, visual pattern to assist students in understanding the abstract (digital) form. They provide the link between the known and unknown. They provide a more convenient tool for students to count and calculate using concrete material. Time is saved in calculating and forming numbers when using concrete material.

Unique Feature 3

The digital display on the back automatically links concrete with abstract.

Benefits

Students can quickly flip from the front to the back to make the transition from concrete to abstract easier and more meaningful. Students are able to calculate and count in concrete or abstract.

Unique Feature 4

Each column on the front has a marker between the fifth and sixth 'block'.

Benefits

They assist students in determining the number of 'blocks' displayed in each column. The markers assist students in rounding and determining the combinations to ten.

More Unique Features

Unique Feature 5

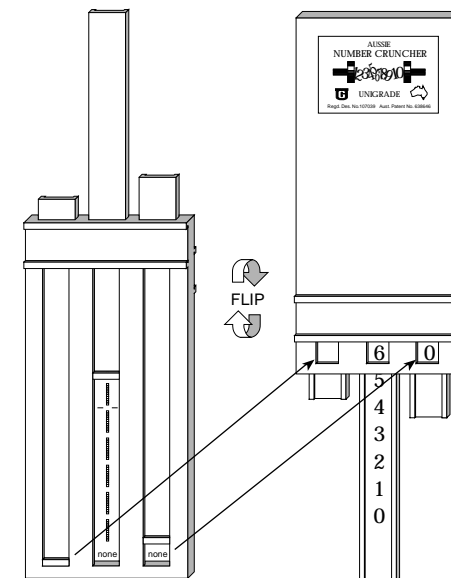
Students have the option to display zeros or blanks.

Benefits

Students will need to frequently consider zero as a place holder. They also have the ability to eliminate any unnecessary zeros. These options are built into both concrete and abstract aspects of the Number Cruncher. This important feature is simply not available from M.A.B. blocks.

When a 'window' on the front is completely closed nothing is displayed on the back.

When 'none' only is shown on the front a zero is displayed on the back. This is necessary to hold the place.



Unique Feature 6

When ten 'blocks' are displayed in a column on the front, a left facing arrow on the back reminds students to exchange the ten blocks for one block in the next column on the left.

Benefits

This feature allows students to count and calculate in concrete terms using first principles. It also helps students understand the relationships between the columns.

