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Activity-Based Teaching of Integer Concepts and its Operations

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Abstract: Students often have difficulty with the concept of integers which makes them struggle when they algebraic solve equations. This action research study focuses on data gathered in a seventh grade mathematics class. The researchers analyzed the effect of various activities using models of integers like the Target integer, Integer chips, the use of Damath and an online game Number Cruncher. The results assessed students' conceptual understanding, procedural skills and perception. These activities led to a greater increase in students' performance and conceptual understanding on integers. Results were compared using the same assessment tool, Pre-Post Tests. Student interviews and surveys were conducted. The combination of these data sets suggests that students' conceptual understanding and procedural skills are enhanced when activity-based teaching is used.

Key Words: up to five key words/terms; separated by semicolons