



MOOCDys

Cuisenaire Rods



Tool Description

Magnetic Cuisenaire rods are a variation of the commonly used Cuisenaire rods in teaching mathematics to young students. Many teachers use them even with students who don't have learning difficulties. Cuisenaire rods are little plastic/wooden solids that a teacher can use to represent the abstract math concepts in a more visual and manipulative manner.

Magnetic ones, on the other hand, are flat, which means they can be placed on any magnetic surface such as a white board. The concept is the same. Each Cuisenaire rod will represent a quantity. For instance, a package can typically contain ten different lengths.

What is the challenge the tool can solve?

Students with learning disorders can have difficulties in the following areas:

- Understanding place value
- Working with complex numbers and operations
- Comparing and estimating quantities
- Memorizing and organizing numbers
- Assess the number of objects at glance

What are the benefits for Dys persons?

These tools are a great help to allow a visual representation of the math concepts and operations learnt in the classroom. They can also allow students who need to manipulate objects to compare and understand quantities more easily.

The use of such a tool can help decompose the more complex operation into different steps, thus allowing a more progressive understanding for the students.

The project is funded with the support of the European Commission. This publication is the sole responsibility of the author and the Commission is not responsible for any information contained therein.



Erasmus+

Example of use in daily life

When using this tool, the students can identify the quantity according to different attributes: color and length. If we want to try and calculate the different partitions of the number three, we can use Cuisenaire rods by showing that the number three can be represented in the following ways:



Here is what a set of traditional Cuisenaire rods looks like:



Here is what a set of magnetic Cuisenaire rods looks like:

