

KATY HOLMES: What surprised me during the lesson was definitely the variety of strategies that students use, whether it was starting with subtraction, and then checking it with addition or whether it was breaking it apart step by step and taking that answer and creating a new addition problem and going through it that way, or just using the place value blocks to help them add the multidigit numbers together. So my next steps would be definitely homing in more on the subtracting across zeros, maybe even teaching a smaller mini lesson, specifically on subtracting across zeros. I know that we've, we've done a lot with that, but maybe going back and specifically pinpointing that specific type of equation, whether it's whole group or small group. So there was one student who, he was struggling with, definitely the subtracting across zeros and when—he wanted to start in the hundreds place. And so when we specifically had him use the place value blocks, he was more able to conceptualize the numbers, taking those numbers away as opposed to just sticking with the algorithm. So some specific strategies I saw was one student definitely, he started with the 300 and then he was subtracting down, and then he used the inverse of addition to help him see that—if his subtraction equation was correct, and he actually had to go back and refix some of the calculations behind that. And then there was another group that they took it step by step, and they really pinpointed exactly what they were going to buy and took it equation by equation. Then there were other groups that they specifically just used the place value blocks to help them, and they actually drew their models of their place value. One of the things that I noticed that- is where the students were taking the giant list of all the things they wanted to purchase, and they were just creating this big, huge equation of number after number after number. So one thing that we might work on is how—a strategy of how do we take that big, huge equation and break it apart into smaller chunks to make it a more manageable math equation for them.