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Inside Problem Solving

Friends You Can Count On

PreK

Materials:

- Sets of stickers that are cut out (enough to give two to each student in class)
- scissors, pencils, and rulers.

Discussion on the rug:

Teacher asks the class, "Who wants to be our class friend for today?" The teacher selects a student.

"Our class friend has a special job to do. The job is to share 2 stickers with all our classmates. How many stickers will our class friend need?" Students think about how many are needed. The teacher solicits some ideas from students. The teacher records the ideas. The teacher asks the class friend to pass out 2 stickers to each student.

The teacher asks, "Is there another way to figure it out without passing out stickers to each student?"

In small groups: Students have sets of stickers, rulers, pencils, and scissors available. The teacher says, "What if you were the class friend and you got to give 3 stickers to each classmate? How many stickers would you need?" Students work together to find a solution. After the students are finished, the teacher asks students to share their answers and method.

At the end of the investigation: Students either discuss or dictate a response to this summary question: "Explain how many stickers you would need in all so that you could give 4 to each classmate."

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