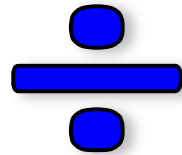
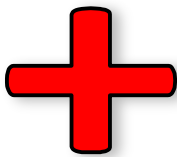


The Fine Art of Deciphering Stories

Sequenced lessons and activities at
two levels that isolate the steps
necessary for success in setting up
solutions to story problems



by Betsy Lockhart

The Fine Art of Deciphering Stories

Level I

Lesson I: The Language of Operations

Sorting cards: keywords

Control Chart I

Lesson II: Recognizing operations vocabulary in Stories

Sorting Cards: Keyword Stories with cues

Control Chart II

Lesson III: Constructing an Equation from a Story

Story cards without cues

Control Chart III

Lesson IV: Finding "The Answer"

Question Cards for Keyword Stories

Control Chart IV

Level II

Using Level II cards

Sorting cards: keywords

Control Chart V

Sorting Cards: Keyword Stories with cues

Control Chart VI

Story cards without cues

Control Chart VII

Question Cards for Keyword Stories

Control Chart VIII

The Fine Art of Deciphering Stories

Word problems are puzzles providing children with wonderful opportunities to apply the operations work that they have learned. On the practical side, standardized testing, an important tool for accountability, is placing greater and greater emphasis on word problems and math applications.

Montessori classrooms need a tool for teaching children how to approach and decipher story problems.

These card sets take children through four sequential **isolated difficulties** to build the **skills** necessary to decipher stories:

- 1) The Language of Operations: associating operations vocabulary (add) with a specific operation (+)
- 2) Recognizing operations vocabulary in stories
- 3) Constructing an equation from a story
- 4) “The Answer” – answering the question that is asked

Two levels of work are included in this card set. Level I teaches basic vocabulary (add, plus, and, sum...), while Level II supplements with more advanced terminology (increased, combined, additional...).

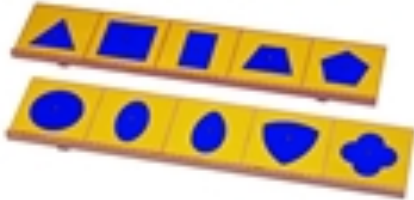
Contents, Level I: 97 sorting cards, 4 Control of Error charts, 4 detailed lesson plans with suggested paper-pencil follow-ups and extensions.

Contents, Level II: 97 additional sorting cards and 4 additional Control of Error charts for extending lessons for more experienced children.

**SAMPLE CARDS, LEVEL I, LESSON 2, CAN
BE SEEN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.**

Children sort stories based on the mathematical operation suggested in the story. On this sheet, all stories suggest addition problems. Subsequent sheets have stories that suggest subtraction, multiplication and division problems.

Krista and Jeffrey are making a book of metal inset designs. Krista starts the book with 4 pages. Jeffrey **adds** 3 pages.



Cooper and Connor are counting the pennies in the coin jar in the classroom. Cooper counts 48 pennies. Connor counts 125 pennies.



The boys **sum** their coin counts.



Reghan is excited about the animal stickers that came with her new magazine.

She got 16 vertebrate stickers **plus** 9 invertebrate stickers.



April							May							June						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5		1	2						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April, May and June are spring months, There are 30 days in January, 31 days in May, and 30 days in June.

Michael found 7 seeds inside his apple. Deborah had 3 **more** seeds than Michael.



Katherine builds 1,234 with stamps. Amanda builds 4,321 with stamps. The girls push their stamps **together**.



Control of Error Chart II

+	-	×	÷	=
