I use 10 and 20 frames frequently to support learners as they begin to understand what numbers really are (e.g., how 'big' 5 is, how big ' 7 ' is, etc).

I also find them helpful as children begin to use different strategies to add and subtract. With learners who need extra support with Number Talks, for example, I would give them each a 10 or 20 frame (depending on how big the numbers we are working with are) with cubes in 2 different colours.

Then I give them a sum on the blackboard which they have to do mentally (with out using the 10 or 20 frame). Once they have given me their answers, we check the answers using our cubes. If the sum is $3+3$, we'd have 3 yellow cubes on the top row, and 3 black cubes on the bottom row of our 10 frame, for example.

Then we can build on that. Their next sum can be $3+4-$ which I'd ask them to solve mentally. Then we add an extra black cube onto our bottom row and check if our answer was correct. Using the 10 and 20 frames this way can help kids to visualise the different addition and subtraction strategies their peers are using during number talks.

Please feel free to leave a comment with any other ideas for how you can use these 10 and 20 frame mats!

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