

**To:** Teachers and parents

**Topic:** Whole numbers and integers (making connections)

**Message Objective(s):** To enable teachers to chunk topics by using connections using the number line approach

**Message:**

Learners must be able to perform basic calculations involving all four operations with integers. It is suggested that the topic can be taught by making connections using a number line so that they understand the commutative, associative, and distributive properties of integers. The number line will help to clarify the relationship between addition and subtraction. Request learners to prepare their own number line strips for the lessons to enable them to use them during lessons. Put more focus on the following key calculations as examples to be progressed:

1.  $17-9$
2.  $17-(-9)$
3.  $9-17$
4.  $9-(-17)$

Correct use of Mathematical language should be reinforced in each case.

Worksheets with activities to cover the above skills should be prepared in advance by the teacher and assess learners on their mastery of integers. Where possible on the spot remediation should be done. Parents could help by assisting learners to complete assigned homework.

From: Richard Marumani

Reference: [www.nect.org.za/materials](http://www.nect.org.za/materials). (links to website documents)