April Zuber
February 13, 2005

Trade Book Sheet

Title of book: Just a Little Bit

Author’s name: Ann Tompert

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company
Copyright year: 1993

Reading level: 2nd grade
Genre: Light Fantasy

Synopsis of story:

The story begins with Elephant and Mouse playing together on a swing set. Elephant suggests that they should play on the seesaw instead. Once Elephant and Mouse climb onto the seesaw, they realize that Elephant is way too heavy, and Mouse is way too light for them to balance. One by one, other animals that are playing at the park climb on the seesaw to try to balance out the weight of Elephant. Eventually a small brown beetle flies along to top the balance off on Mouse’s side. All of the animals then enjoy playing on the seesaw together.

Standard:

2.1.2-Use tools-such as thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances to gain more information about objects.

2.5.7-Recognize the need for a fixed unit of weight.

Activity:

After reading the book I would put the students in even groups. Each group would have their own scale to work with and the same object to weigh, like a glue stick, a
pair of scissors, or a wooden block. Next, each group would get a different unit of measurement, like paperclips, cotton balls, washers, or pennies. After that, the groups would figure out and record how many of their units were needed to equal the weight of the common object. Then each group would present and compare their results. As a class, we would then discuss why their weights are different, and why it is important to have a common unit of measurement.

**Standard:**

2.2.2-Add two whole numbers less than 100 with and without regrouping.

**Activity:**

After reading the book, I would put the class in even groups. Next, I would distribute picture cards with animals and their average weight. For example, one card may have a picture of a fox with an average weight of 12 pounds. Using Base Ten Blocks (Place Value Model), the students would lay out the blocks that equal an animal’s weight. For the fox, two single cubes and one connected line of ten blocks would represent the average weight of 12 pounds. The students would use the Base Ten Blocks to represent the weight of two separate animals, and then count the blocks all together to find the total weight of the two animals. This activity would be the first step to adding two digit numbers without regrouping.