

Unit 1: Family Letter



Introduction to *First Grade Everyday Mathematics*

Welcome to *First Grade Everyday Mathematics*. It is part of an elementary school mathematics curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP). *Everyday Mathematics* offers children a broad background in mathematics.

Several features of the program are described below to help familiarize you with *Everyday Mathematics*.

A problem-solving approach based on everyday situations By making connections between their own knowledge and experiences, children learn basic skills in meaningful contexts so that mathematics becomes "real."

A variety of formats for frequent practice of basic skills Instead of practice presented only in a tedious drill format, children practice basic skills in a variety of engaging ways. In addition to completing daily mixed practice pages, finding patterns on the number grid, and working with addition and subtraction fact families, children will play games designed to develop basic skills.

An instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly To enhance the development of basic skills and concepts, children revisit previously learned concepts and practice skills encountered earlier. The lessons take advantage of previously learned concepts and skills and build on them throughout the year.

A curriculum that explores mathematical content beyond basic arithmetic Mathematics standards in the United States, as well as around the world, indicate that basic arithmetic skills are only the beginning of the mathematical knowledge children will need. In addition to basic arithmetic, *First Grade Everyday Mathematics* emphasizes the topics discussed on the following page.

