

Equal

The equal sign shows that two or more quantities are exactly the same.

The equal sign does not belong in any particular location. Be careful teaching your students that it comes at the end to signify an answer. The equal sign denotes that the values on both sides are the same—therefore the "answer" is just what makes the sides equivalent.

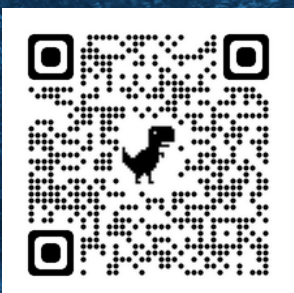
Equal is addressed as early as kindergarten.

INSTEAD

Use a balance scale to teach the concept of equal.



If students learn that $=$ means balanced sides or equivalency from the beginning- they will not struggle with its changing location in their math problems. They will be in the mindset of balancing equations instead of finding answers.



Ideas for equal in primary grades