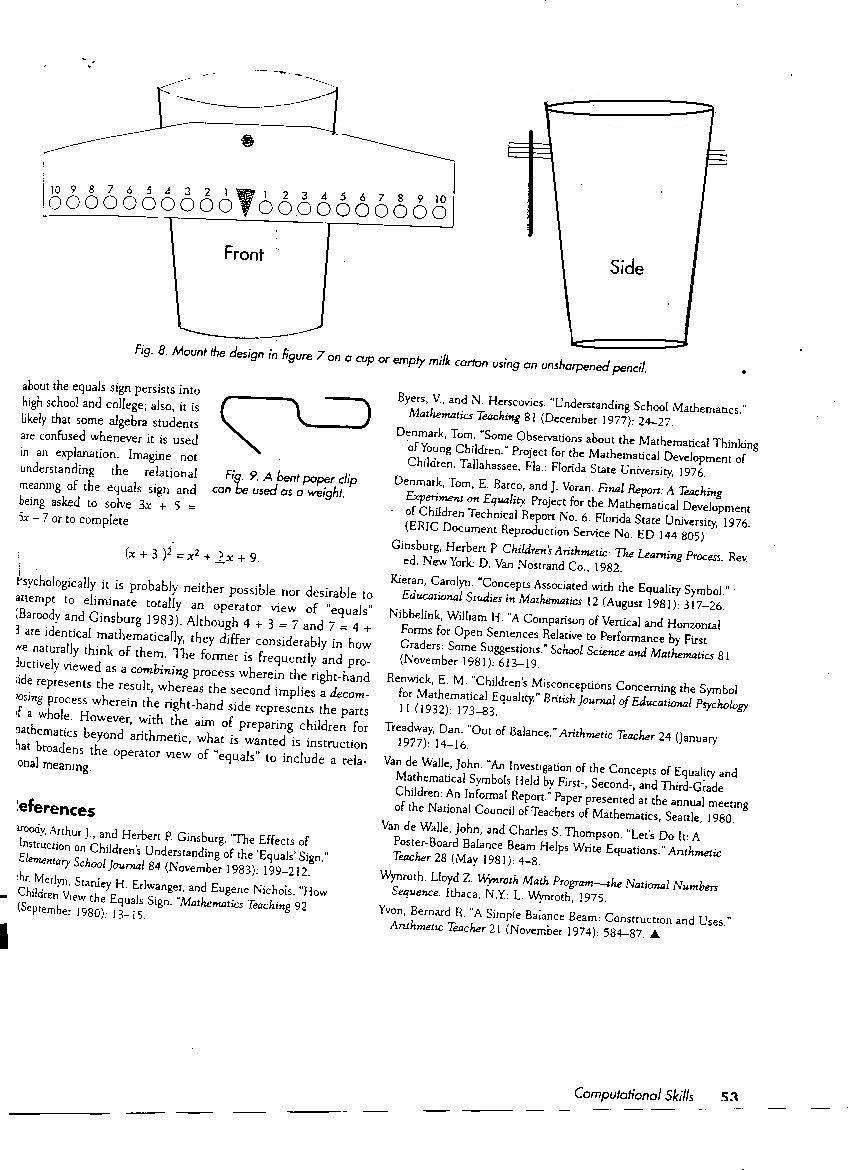
Number Balances for Equality

Copy the attached balance arm on cardstock and use a hole punch cut out the holes under the numbers.  Construct the balance using a plastic cup, straw or unsharpened pencil, and cardstock arm.  Punch holes in the plastic cup through which the straw or pencil can be slid to mount the arm.

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Students can then use bent paper clips as weights to model various equations on their number balance.

Examples:

On the **left** side, hang a clip in 6 and 4.  If you place a clip in 3 on the **right** side, where else must you place a clip so that it will balance?

**left** **right**

        6 + 4   =   3 + \_\_\_\_

The clips can also show multiplication.  To show 2 x 6, place 2 clips in the 6.  Can you finish this sentence?

**left** **right**

        2 x 6   =    \_\_\_\_ + 5

