

# Activities for Improving Data Literacy: Calculating Average

## What's the average age of the group?

This activity is designed to understand the collection of primary data and use simple calculations to understand distribution and population.

- 1. Collect the ages of ten people in your family or class.
- 2. Estimate the average age of the group by guessing, before calculating.
- 3. List the names and ages of each member — these are data points.
- 4. Calculate the average by adding up all the ages and dividing by ten.
- 5. Answer the following reflective questions:

What was the result? How close was your estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is an estimation a helpful gauge for the end result? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there anyone whose current age matches the average? \_\_\_\_\_

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How useful or meaningful is the average? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there significant outliers that change the average (e.g., a newborn baby)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How might changing the sample size affect the average? \_\_\_\_\_

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