

Addition and Subtraction Strategies

ADDITION

COUNTING ON – This **strategy** works well when adding 1, 2, or 3 to a larger number. For example, $8+2=?$ Start with 8 and count 9, 10.

DOUBLES – **Doubles facts** are good to commit to memory. Remind your child that the sum (answer) for a doubles fact is always an even number. For example, $6+6=12$.

NEAR DOUBLES (DOUBLES + 1 OR DOUBLES +2) – Recognizing near doubles in **equations** can help a child find the sum. For example, $6+7=?$ Recognize $6+6=12$ and add one more equals 13.

TEN FACTS – Ten serves as the basic source of our number system and plays a key role in many mental math strategies. Therefore, the children need to be familiar with the combinations that make ten. For example, $6+4$ and $7+3$. You can use the ten frame from the Math page to play with this idea. Use something fun for counters (raisins and chocolate chips?).

ADDING TENS – Understanding the pattern of adding a single number to 10 is an important basic skill in numeration and place value. For example, $10+3=13$ (1 ten and 3 ones).

MAKE TEN – Using the **10 frame**, children can visualize moving numbers to simplify addition questions to adding with a ten. For example, $9+3$ is like $10+2$. There are 10 frames on the web site.

SUBTRACTION

COUNTING BACK – This strategy works well when subtracting 1, 2, or 3. For example, $11-2=?$. Start with 11 and count backwards ... 10, 9.

COUNTING UP – This strategy works well when subtracting larger numbers. For example, $12-8=?$. Start with 8 and count forward 9, 10, 11, 12. You counted up 4 numbers, so the difference is 4.

MAKE TENS – This strategy uses 10 facts and addition knowledge. Using this strategy you give a **part** and a **total**, or **sum**. For example, the part is 6 and the total is 14. $6+4=10$, plus 4 is 14. 8 is added in all. So, $14-6=8$.

THINK ADDITION – Think addition is one of the most powerful ways to think about subtraction facts. For example, $13-5=?$. Think $5+?=13$.