

Maths - Subtraction



This week we will be recapping subtraction. Your child has already been taught the basics so this is now a chance to put all of that information into use!

Don't forget to use the range of vocabulary when talking about subtraction (taking away, minus, less than).

The teaching of subtraction follows a process-

1. Listening to verbal stories involving subtraction and using practical objects to 'take away' (toys cars, people, animals etc.).
2. Use practical objects to represent a number sentence and then solve it by taking away some objects. Eg $6 - 3 = 3$
3. Cross out pictures to represent a number sentence to find the answer.
4. Draw your own pictures/symbols to represent a number sentence and then cross out.
5. Use a number line to count backwards to find the answer.
6. Choose your own method of solving a subtraction problem.



All children learn in different ways so please choose and adapt the activities you think will match your child from the ideas on the next few pages. The activities will start with more simple ideas and progress up to more difficult maths.

Have fun!





Activity 1 - Story subtraction

Using small world toys (cars, animals, cuddly toys, dolls etc.) tell a story to your child and ask your child to act out the story using the objects. For example;



"Sam was walking through the jungle and he saw 7 bears hiding in the trees (your child will count out 7 bears/teddies). They heard a big bang and 3 bears ran away into their cave (your child will take away 3 bears and hide them behind their back). How many bears were still hiding in the trees? (ask your little one to tell you the subtraction problem $7 - 3 = 4$)"

Write the number sentence down so you can read it back using the numbers and symbols. Play this activity many times with different numbers to become secure in the concept of subtraction taking away an object.



Activity 2 - Takeaway using dice



This activity still uses practical equipment to solve the problem but the children can have fun making and recording their own problem to solve.

Collect 10 objects from home (Lego bricks, buttons, marbles etc.) and arrange them in a row (or a tower).



1. Roll the dice and use the number it has landed on to put into a number sentence. *The number sentence will always start with 10 because the starting number will not change. Eg, $10 - 4 =$*
2. Now takeaway the number of objects from 10 that the number sentence says and write the answer $10 - 4 = 6$.
3. How many different number sentences can you make using the dice?

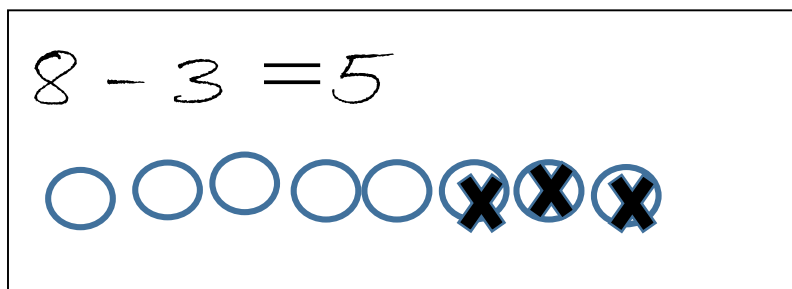


Activity 3 – Solve number sentences using cross outs

It can be tricky for children to draw the pictures to match a takeaway problem, so the next step is to draw a **representation** of the picture using a simple shape (like a dot or a circle).

You can still tell a story but now your child will draw a circle to represent the animal, car, teddy in the story.

"Max had 8 sweets but he gave 3 sweets to his friend. How many did Max have left? 8 takeway 3 is how many?"



Following on from this, write (or print out a copy from the school website) a selection of number sentences for your child to solve by drawing cross outs. Use water and paintbrushes, felt tips, chalk, pens and pencils to add some variety to the activity.

