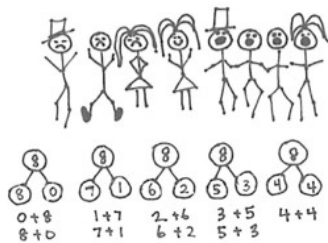


First Grade Math Parent Letter - Unit 1

Welcome to First Grade math! We are excited about teaching and learning math this year. For every new unit, you will receive a letter like this one, explaining what students will learn in the unit. Please see the Vocabulary link on our math website (d90parentmath.weebly.com/1st-grade.html) to help with unfamiliar terms. In our first unit, we will set the foundation for students to master the sums and differences to 10.

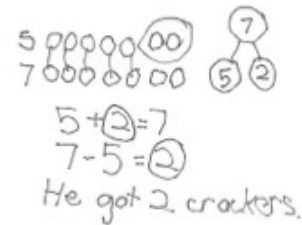
In the beginning of the unit, students will learn about counting on (e.g. start with five and count “six, seven, eight, nine, ten”). They will also work on decomposing, or breaking apart, numbers into smaller numbers, recording their decompositions as number bonds (see the example to the right). In addition, they will come to see *1 more* as $+ 1$.



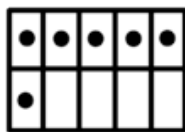
As the unit continues, students will describe *put together* situations (pictured to the left) with number bonds and count on from the first part to totals of 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. One goal is to help students reflect, “Look at all these ways to make 8! I can see connections between them.”

Students will come to interpret the meaning of addition from *adding to with result unknown* or *putting together with result unknown* story problems by drawing their own pictures and writing solution equations. Furthermore, they will expand their knowledge of two basic ideas of mathematics: equality and the commutativity of addition (e.g., $4 + 3 = 3 + 4$).

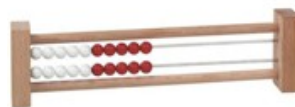
Students will also relate subtraction to addition, learning to think about subtraction as a missing addend and reinterpreting addition problems as subtraction (see examples on left). As the unit continues, students will learn to use math drawings to help them and solve story problems. They will also come to work on a more abstract level by visiting methods for subtraction involving special cases, subtracting 0 and 1, subtracting the whole number, and subtracting one less than the whole number.



Throughout this unit, we will have frequent activities to provide sustained practice to help students attain fluency, the ability to add and subtract quickly and easily. This fluency is essential to the work of later units and future grade levels, where students must fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide with increasingly difficult numbers. Activities such as Say Ten counting and Take from 10, and the use of tools such as ten frames and rekenreks, solidify student fluency. Please see our Vocabulary list for more information about terminology used in this unit.



ten frame



rekenrek