1st grade
Math Moments for Families

Unit 2
Developing Addition and Subtraction Strategies Within 20

Your student should be able to…
• Represent a set of objects using numerals
• Show what happens when we join two quantities or take one from another
• Find the total when we join two quantities
• Find what is left when we take one quantity from another
• Find the difference when we compare one quantity to another
• Compare one quantity to another
• Represent problem situations
• Understand what happens when we change the order of numbers when we add (or subtract) Why?
• Show that addition and subtraction are related through fact families
• Use different combinations of numbers and operations to represent the same   quantity
• Represent a number in a variety of ways

Example: Counting On
5 + 2 = ____. Student counts five counters. The student adds the first counter and says 6, then adds another counter and says 7. The student knows the answer is 7, since they counted on 2.

 12 – 3 = ____
Example: Counting All
12 – 3 = ____. The student counts twelve counters. The student removes 3 of them. The student counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 to get the answer.

Example: Counting Back
. First I added 8 and 2 to get 10, and then added the 5 to get 15.
12 – 3 = ____. The student counts twelve counters. The student removes a counter and says 11, removes another counter and says 10, and removes a third counter and says 9. The student knows the answer is 9, since they counted back 3.

 8 + 7 = ____
Example: Making 10 and Decomposing a Number
I know that 8 plus 2 is 10, so I decomposed (broke) the 7 up into a 2 and a 5
8 + 7 = (8 + 2) + 5 = 10 + 5 = 15

Example: Creating an Easier Problem with Known Sums
I know 8 is 7 + 1. I also know that 7 and 7 equal 14 and then I added 1 more to get 15.
8 + 7 = (7 + 7) + 1 = 15

How to Help Your Child

Continue to let them count at home. They need to practice counting objects and counting aloud to 120.

Have your child make up "Story problems" that require them to add or subtract using the objects that they count.

Students are encouraged to use objects or draw pictures to help them add or subtract at this age.   Flash cards are good practice at times, but encourage your child to explain to you or show you how they solve addition and subtraction problems.

If there is something specific that your child is struggling with at home, please contact the teacher. She is always available to help and can provide specific practice activities when requested.