Mental Math Strategies for Addition

LESSON 1

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning how to use different mental math strategies for addition.

Here are some addition strategies that your child will learn.

Count On

An addition problem can be solved by counting on. You can count from a number in a problem to find the total. This strategy will help your child find the number of objects in a group without counting each one.

To find 8 + 3, start with 8. Then count on 3, the other number in the problem. 8, . . . , 9, 10, 11. So, 8 + 3 = 11.

Doubles Plus 1

A doubles fact is an addition problem in which the two addends (the numbers being added) are the same, such as 8 + 8. A doubles plus 1 fact is an addition problem in which one of the addends is one more than the other, such as 8 + 9.

Find 8 + 9.	8 + 9
Think of 9 as 8 + 1.	8 + 8 + 1
Add the double, 8 + 8.	16
Add 1 to the **sum** of 16.	16 + 1 = 17
Give the answer for 8 + 9.	8 + 9 = 17

Make a Ten

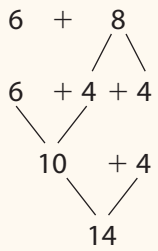
Adding can be easier when one number is 10. By breaking apart a number, you can add to make 10, and then add the rest.

Find 6 + 8.

Think of 8 as 4 + 4.

Add 6 and 4 to make 10.

Add the other 4.



Adding 10 + 4 is an easier problem to solve mentally: 10 + 4 = 14, so 6 + 8 = 14.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about making a ten by doing the following activity together.

ACTIVITY MAKING A TEN

Do this activity with your child to practice adding using mental math strategies.

- Begin by holding up 6 fingers. Ask your child to add 9 to that number.
- Have your child add the numbers by "making a 10" and using your fingers to model the process. (For example, your child might start by adding 4 and putting the rest of your fingers up, and then adding 5 of his or her own fingers to model adding 9.)
- Ask your child questions such as: *If I hold up 8 fingers, how can I add 7 by making a ten?*
- Repeat with other numbers of fingers, playing for about 5 minutes.