

Marvellous Maths

Year R:



This week we will be focussing on subtraction. The aim is for your child to subtract two single-digit numbers and count back to find the answer.

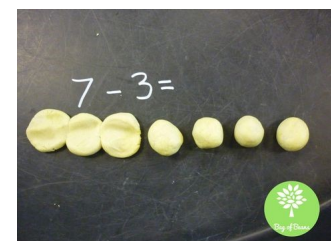
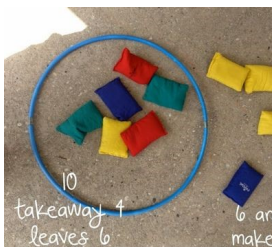
1. Show your child a subtraction sign and ask them what it means. Draw a car park with different spaces. Ask your child to drive 6 cars into the car park. Explain that 2 cars are now going to drive home. Ask them to drive two away counting down as they do so e.g. 6, 5, 4. Write down the matching number sentence for your child to see $6-2=4$. This time write a different number sentence (using single digits) and ask them to "act" out the number sentence using their cars, counting back each time rather than counting how many are left.



2. Make some subtraction "tens frames". These are basically a 2×5 grid. Write a subtraction number sentence and ask your child to make playdough counters (or use buttons, counters etc) to match the first number in the sentence. Now ask them to complete the number sentence by removing counters and counting back. They can then write the answer at the end of the number sentence.



3. Continue to practice subtraction by counting back using some of the ideas below, encouraging your child to write a subtraction number sentence that you tell them, work out the answer and write it to complete the number sentence.



4. Ask your child to make a number line to ten or twenty, depending on their level, either using paper or card on the floor, or chalk on the path, or cards pegged on the washing-line out in the garden, or post-it notes on a wall—the idea is to make it large-scale so your child is physically moving up and down the number line as the numbers get bigger or smaller. Practise counting forwards and backwards, then use the number line to 'hop' backwards along the line to find the answer to the subtraction number sentences you call out. Remember to check they don't count the starting number as one of the numbers being subtracted.



For some extra practice, using a written numberline beside them, to practise using it, try playing simple online subtraction games such as <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/subtraction/subtraction-to-10> Or choose a different subtraction game to suit your child's level at <https://www.education.com/games/subtraction/> — choose either kindergarten or Grade 1 games (move your mouse over the game icon and it gives you details of the games).