Patterns and Algebra: *Key Skill 15*

Find missing numbers in number sentences involving 1 operation of addition or subtraction

A **number sentence** is an equation. It uses numbers and symbols to describe a maths problem.

A **fact family** is a group of related facts in addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. It helps children understand the relationship between operations.

$4 + \triangle = 10$

$\triangle + 4 = 10$

$10 - 4 = \triangle$

$10 - \triangle = 4$

These skills will be used by the children for the rest of their maths careers! To find missing numbers, we use lots of strategies.

- We focus on the idea of equivalence and the role of the equals (=) sign. Remembering that the equals sign means 'the same on both sides'.
- We know that addition and subtraction are inverse operations (Key Skill 5)
- We use a fact family

The key is to be able to explain *how* they got their answer (show working out).

Here are some examples of number sentences with missing numbers.

$4 + \triangle = 9$ $10 - \triangle = 2$ $5 = 2 + \triangle$ $12 = 15 - \triangle$

Use objects or draw pictures to create number sentences and fill in the missing parts.

Create a balance beam with a coat hanger, string and cups and use this to solve questions.

WEB LINKS go to:

Notes: Make a balance scale

Video: Missing numbers

Game: Number pyramid