

Addition and Subtraction: Key Skill 9

Recognise and remember number combinations that add up to 10



Number combinations are a pair of numbers that add up to 10 e.g. 9 and 1, 8 and 2, 7 and 3, 6 and 4 etc. They are also called number bonds to 10 and friends of 10.



This is an important skill for working out mental calculation (doing maths in your head) in future years. Knowing number combinations makes adding and subtracting in your head easier. Through number combinations, children can start to see the relationships between numbers e.g. $5 + 5 = 10$ because 5 and 5 are friends of 10. This skill needs a lot of practice!



Practise quick recall of numbers that add to 10.

$$9 + 1 = 10 \quad 1 + 9 = 10$$

$$8 + 2 = 10 \quad 2 + 8 = 10$$

$$7 + 3 = 10 \quad 3 + 7 = 10$$

$$6 + 4 = 10 \quad 4 + 6 = 10$$

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

Your child might learn about 'friends of 10', e.g. 3 and 7 are 'friends' of 10 because $7 + 3 = 10$ and $3 + 7 = 10$.

Use a coat hanger and 10 pegs to group friends of ten ([see Video: Number bonds to 10](#)).

Friends of 10 is often shown as a rainbow with 9 and 1 joining at the biggest arc and 5 and 5 the smallest ([see Notes: Friends to 10 rainbow](#)). Make your own rainbow friends to 10 artwork.

Make friends of 10 paper chains where $3 + 7$ would be 3 green links and 7 red green links etc. Show how each chain can be flipped for $3 + 7$ or $7 + 3$. Can you find all the friends of 10?

Play a game where you have 10 straws and then hide a number behind your back. Your child has to work out how many straws are behind your back using their friends of 10.



WEB LINKS go to:

[Notes: Friends to 10 rainbow](#)

[Video: Activities with number bonds](#)

[Video: Number bonds](#)

[Video: Number bonds to 10](#)

Addition and Subtraction: *Key Skill 10*

Take part of a group away to show subtraction



Subtraction is taking 1 number or amount away from another. It is the opposite of addition. Decrease, minus, subtract, subtraction and take away mean the same thing.



This helps children to build number skills and move towards mental calculation (doing maths in your head) in subtraction in later years.

Look for one-to-one counting where they are matching 1 object to 1 number. Children can sometimes get stuck if they forget to move objects when working out their answer. Look for every object being counted once and given a number as your child subtracts. Check that they know the last number they count is the answer.

Children in Kindergarten will often count all the objects, then count and take away the amount they need to subtract, then count the remaining objects starting again from 1 to find their answer.



Play Snakes & Ladders or a game of skittles!

Play a pirate treasure hunt game where you start with 10 objects and the Kraken hides some away. Keep the left overs in a box so the pirate can work out how many items have been hidden.

Then go on the treasure hunt to find all the missing items! Take turns being the pirate and the Kraken. This game could be a princess and a goblin or any other characters your child likes!

Imaginative play is a great time to use maths! Look for opportunities to weave in simple subtraction problems into the game e.g. '3 trains had to leave Sodor to help the Fat Controller at the Abbey Station. How many are left at the Tidmouth Sheds now?'



WEB LINKS go to:

[Video: Basic subtraction](#)

[Video: Subtraction snake](#)

[Video: Adding and taking away number 0 – 10](#)