

Addition and Subtraction: *Key Skill 11*



Mentally add and subtract 1-digit and 2-digit numbers. Explain how they worked out their answer in their head



A **digit** is a symbol used to write a numeral. The digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are used to write all the numbers in our number system. A 2-digit number is any 2 numbers together e.g. 25 or 76.

Children use **mental strategies** to figure out the maths problem in their head, without writing anything down.



Mental calculation is an important everyday skill – we use it at the shops, when we're playing sport and we're in the car to figure out when we'll get there. When children can add and subtract in their head, it builds their confidence and lays the groundwork for skills they'll need later.

Start with questions that don't use trading and work to harder questions where trading is needed. We often use a 100s chart to help children work towards mental addition and subtraction ([here's a 100s chart you can print](#)). Sometimes children need a reminder to start with the largest number. It is important that they can explain **how** they came to their answer.



Make up some sums for your child to solve (use the place value chart to start with). Ask, 'How did you figure that out? Can you show me how you got that answer? What if I change the number to?'

Pretend that you don't know how to answer the question and get it wrong on purpose. Have your child become the expert and teach you how to solve the problem!

Play a game of subtraction bowling! Write down the number of pins you start with, and take away the number you knock down. At the end, add your scores.

Play a subtraction game with dice. Start with a 50 or 100, roll the dice, and subtract the result. The first person to 0 wins! Try doing the same with addition starting at 0 and aiming for 50 or 100.



WEB LINKS go to:

[Notes: How to help your child with mental calculation](#)

[Video: Mental subtraction strategies](#)

[Video: Subtraction strategies](#)

[Game: Gobbling goblins](#)

Addition and Subtraction: *Key Skill 12*

YEAR
1

Use the equals sign, and know that the total of the numbers on both sides must have the same value



The **equals sign** is a symbol used to show that 2 or more amounts have the same value
e.g. $5 + 3 = 9 - 1$.



The equals sign is like a balance beam! The numbers on either side must always be equal. It doesn't just mean 'write the answer here'. The equals sign's job is easily and quickly forgotten and children need reminding of this often! Talk to your child about sums and the equals sign. Use words like value, same, different and even balance beam.



Use different coloured pegs to create different combinations that add up to the same number. 4 green + 2 blue = 3 green + 3 blue. See how many different combinations you can make to create the same total!

Don't forget to write questions of the other side of the equals sign! $7 = 3 + 4$ and is the same as $3 + 4 = 7$ but not often seen like this.

$$= 2 + 7$$

$$= 8 - 4$$

$$= 7 - 5$$

$$= 3 + 11$$

Create your own scales with a coat hanger, 2 cups and string. Put an equals sign in the middle then make and test your own questions using pegs, marbles or even food!

Try some questions where the 2 sides don't add up to the same number. Put 2 boxes either side of the equals sign with objects in each 1 so your child can count and move items to help them find then fix the problem.

$$5 + 2 = 3 + 5$$

$$10 - 2 = 3 + 3$$

$$10 + 2 = 12 + 4$$



WEB LINKS go to:

[Video: What is the question?](#)

[Video: Using the equals sign in Year 1](#)

[Game: Balance the cups](#)