Family Support Materials

Adding and Subtracting Within 20

In this unit, students add and subtract within 20.

Section A: Develop Fluency with Addition and Subtraction to 10

This section focuses on developing students' fluency with addition and subtraction within 10. Students need to have fluency with addition and subtraction facts within 10 by the end of grade 1. Students are encouraged to think about addition facts that can help them figure out subtraction facts. For example, given $9 - 4$, students may say “I know that $5 + 4 = 9$, so $9 - 4 = 5$.”

Students develop fluency with sums of 10 and the 10-frame is used as a helpful visual. For example, this 10-frame may allow students to see several related facts.

Students also continue to build an understanding of the equal sign as they work with equations with an expression on both sides. They may use computation, or reasoning about the numbers, to determine if the equations are true or false.

Section B: Use the Structure of 10 to Add and Subtract

In this section, students explore the base-ten system and place value as they learn that ten ones are put together to make a new unit, a ten.
Students see that teen numbers are a group of ten plus some number of ones. Students use connecting cubes organized into towers of 10 and 10-frames to make sense of ten as a unit.

Students use 10-frames to help them add and subtract from teen numbers. For example, this image shows $12 + 5$ and $17 - 5$.

**Section C: Add within 20**

In this section, students add 2 or 3 numbers with a total within 20. They start with problems where 2 of the numbers make a 10 (for example, $6 + 8 + 4$) and learn that you can add numbers in any order, which can make adding easier. They discover the usefulness of grouping numbers to find a sum of 10 when adding. Students find the sum of 2 addends using methods where they count on or use related facts they know.

For example, making a ten is helpful when finding the value of $9 + 5$.

Students can take 1 from the 5 and group it with the 9 to make 10, and then add the 4.

**Section D: Subtract within 20**

In this section, students subtract within 20. They use the relationship between addition and subtraction and their understanding of the usefulness of a ten.
For example, given $15 - 8$, students may take away 5 to get to 10 and then take away another 3 to find the difference of 7.

They may also start with 8 and count on to get 10, and then add another 5 to reach 15. They see that the difference is 7.

Try it at home!

Near the end of the unit ask your student to solve these expressions:

1. $7 + 2 + 3$
2. $18 - 9$

Questions that may be helpful as they work:

- How could you make a 10 to help you?
- Could you tell me how to count on/count back to find the answer?
- Could you solve this problem a different way?