

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to solve word problems by adding and subtracting.



Your child will learn to relate the numbers in word problems to addition sentences and subtraction sentences. This will help him or her understand what information is given in a problem and what needs to be found out.

**Example:**

Keisha has 5 shells.  
She gives some away.  
Now she has 3 shells.  
How many does she give away?

$$3 + \underline{2} = 5 \longleftarrow \text{Use an **addition sentence.**}$$

$$5 - \underline{2} = 3 \longleftarrow \text{Or use a **subtraction sentence.**}$$

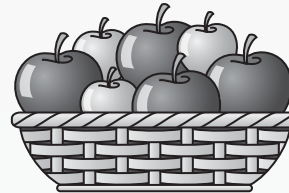
Keisha gives away 2 shells.

**Example:**

Ben picks 7 apples.  
4 are big. The rest are small.  
How many are small?

$$4 + \underline{3} = 7 \text{ or } 7 - 4 = \underline{3}$$

3 apples are small.



Invite your child to share what he or she knows about adding and subtracting to solve word problems by doing the following activity together.



## Solving Word Problems Activity

**Materials:** 9 small objects (such as pennies, buttons, or paper clips), a cup or other container

Take turns making up and solving word problems about how many objects there are in the cup, on the table, and in all. When you say a problem, give a number sentence to describe it. When you solve the problem, say the number sentence with the answer. Encourage your child to check his or her work by counting the objects.

### Examples:

- Put 2 pennies in the cup and 6 pennies on the table.

*Problem:* There are 2 pennies in the cup and 6 pennies on the table. How many pennies are there in all?

*Number sentence:*  $2 + 6 = ?$

- Put 3 pennies in the cup and 4 pennies on the table.

*Problem:* There are 7 pennies. 4 are on the table. How many are in the cup?

*Number sentence:*  $7 - 4 = ?$



Make up and solve 10 different problems.

