

Dear Family,

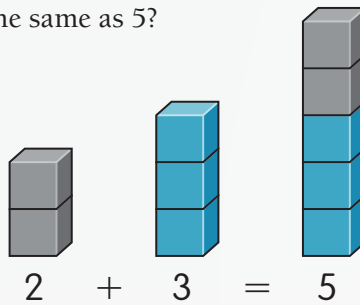
This week your child is learning about the equal sign.



The **equal sign** ( $=$ ) is a symbol that means “is the same as.” For a number sentence to be true, or correct, the amounts on both sides of the equal sign must be the same. Understanding this will help your child write and use number sentences to solve math problems.

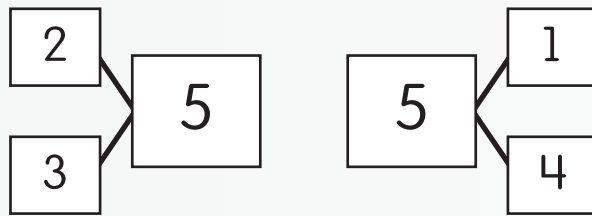
Your child will use connecting cubes to explore the equal sign.

**Example:** Is  $2 + 3$  the same as 5?



Your child will also use number bonds.

**Example:** Is  $2 + 3$  the same as  $1 + 4$ ?



$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 = 1 + 4$$

$$2 + 3 = 1 + 4$$

The totals on both sides of the equal sign are the same. So the number sentence is true.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about the equal sign by doing the following activity together.



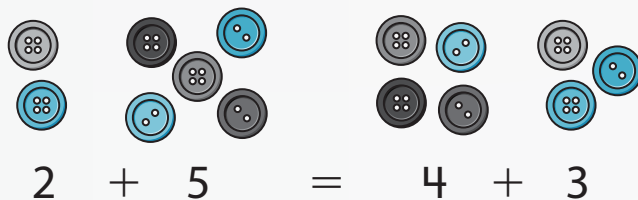
## Making Equal Groups Activity

**Materials:** 20 small objects (such as buttons, paper clips, or pasta shapes), paper, pencil

Keep 10 small objects and give 10 to your child. You and your child will work together to make groups that have the same totals and write number sentences about your groups.

### Example:

- Place 2 buttons in one group and 5 buttons in another group. Write  $2 + 5$  on a sheet of paper.
- Ask your child to use his or her buttons to show the same amount with two different groups. He or she could place 4 buttons in one group and 3 buttons in another group.
- Your child should complete the number sentence you started by writing an equal sign and the number of objects in his or her groups:  $2 + 5 = 4 + 3$ .
- To check that the number sentence is true, count to see if you both are showing the same total number of objects.



Repeat the activity several times using different totals and different numbers in the groups.

