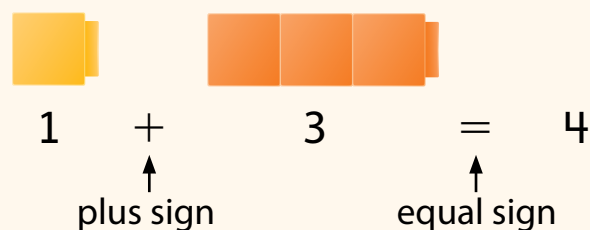


Understand Addition

Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring addition.

This lesson explores the idea of what it means to **add**. It also introduces the **plus sign** and the **equal sign** as a way to represent the joining together of two groups of objects into a single group. Your child will use connecting cubes as physical models and drawings as visual models to show adding two groups.


$$1 + 3 = 4$$

plus sign equal sign

The lesson also introduces different problem situations.

Add To: There are 2 birds in a tree. 3 more birds join them.
How many birds are in the tree now?

Put Together: 2 oranges and 3 apples are in a bowl.
How many pieces of fruit are in the bowl?

Physically modeling addition, drawing pictures, and exploring different problem situations will help your child make connections to how addition is used in everyday life.

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

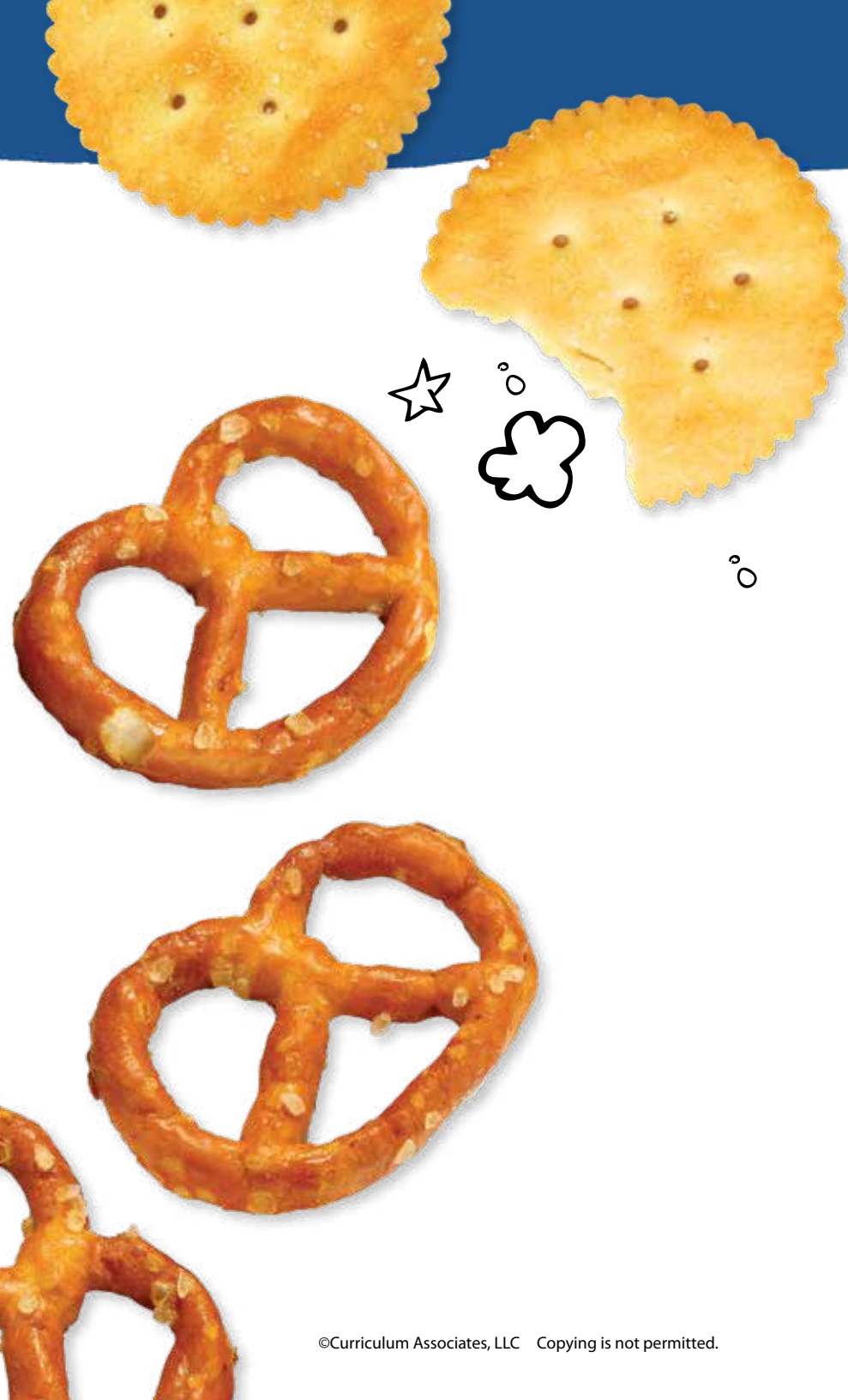


Activity Adding

Do this activity with your child to explore what it means to add.

Materials 8 small objects of 2 different types or colors (such as pretzels and crackers, dried pasta pieces in 2 different shapes, or buttons in 2 different colors)

- Give your child two groups of objects that have a combined total of 5 or less. For example, place snack items such as 3 pretzels and 2 crackers in two groups.
- Ask how many objects are in each group. After your child counts, ask an addition problem about the groups, such as: *There are 3 pretzels and 2 crackers. How many snacks are there in all?*
- Your child puts the groups together and counts to find the total. You might also ask your child to write an equation, for example, $3 + 2 = 5$.
- Repeat at least 3 more times, each time using different quantities but keeping the total 5 or less.
- Ask your child addition problems about small groups of objects whenever you can. For example, have your child add apples and bananas, big spoons and small spoons, or yellow blocks and orange blocks.



Add Within 5

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to add within 5.

This lesson includes solving addition problems with totals up to 5. It also connects story problems to pictures, objects, 5-frames, and equations. This will provide your child with a strong foundation as he or she eventually moves from solving problems shown with pictures or models to solving problems shown only with numbers.

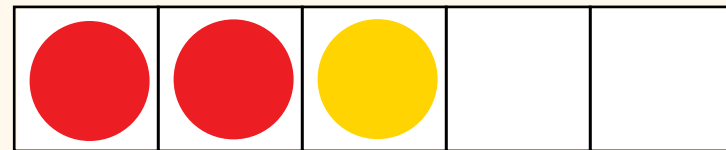


Picture



$$2 + 1 = 3$$

5-Frame



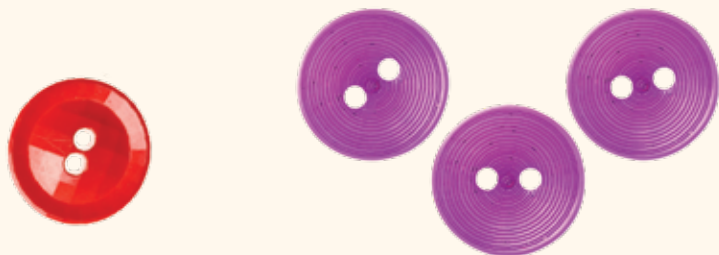
$$2 + 1 = 3$$

Activity Adding Within 5

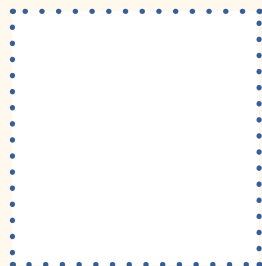
Do this activity with your child to connect addition equations to concrete objects.

Materials 8 small objects of 2 different colors or types (such as buttons in 2 different colors or dried pasta pieces in 2 different shapes)

- Fold a sheet of paper in half.
- Write an addition equation that has a total of 5 or less across the bottom of the half-sized page. Do not include the total.
- Show your child how to place a group of objects above each number.
- Have your child count how many objects there are in all and write the total after the equal sign.
- Write other addition equations for your child to figure out on the three remaining sections of the folded paper (front and back). Each addition equation should have a total of 5 or less. Have your child use objects to find the totals.



$$1 + 3 =$$



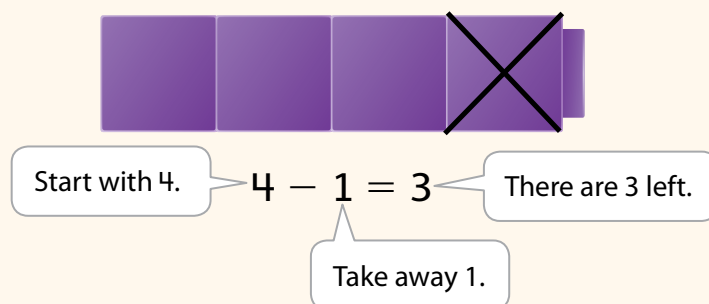
Understand Subtraction

Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring subtraction.

This lesson explores the idea of what it means to **subtract** and introduces the **minus** sign and the equal sign as a way to represent taking away objects from a group. Your child will use counters and/or connecting cubes as physical models and drawings as visual models to show taking away from a group.

Modeling subtraction in these ways can help make connections to subtraction equations. For example, one side of a subtraction equation shows how many you start with and how many you take away. The other side shows how many are left.

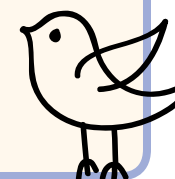


This lesson also explores take-away problem situations.

Take-From Result Unknown: *There are 5 birds in a tree. 2 birds fly away. How many birds are in the tree now?*

Physically modeling subtraction, drawing pictures, and exploring subtraction problem situations will help your child make connections to how subtraction is used in daily life.

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



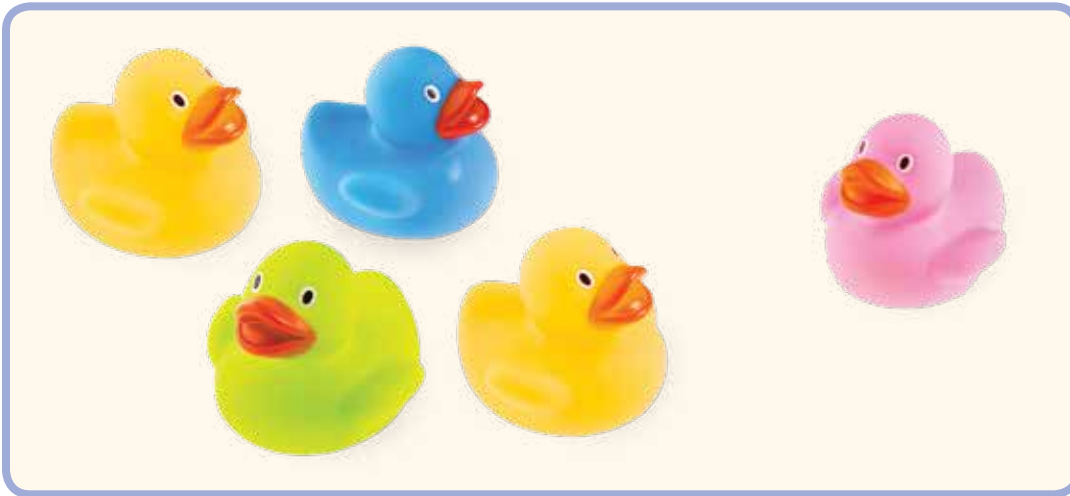
Activity Subtracting

Do this activity with your child to explore subtraction.

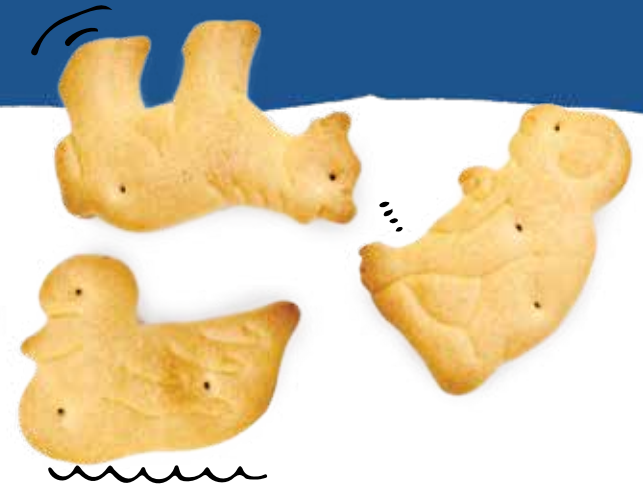
Materials 5 animal-shape crackers or animal toys (or any small objects such as buttons or blocks)

Show your child groups of 2 to 5 animals. Tell subtraction stories such as the one below. Encourage your child to use the objects to act out each story and solve the problem.

- *4 ducks are in a pond.* (Have your child count the toy ducks.)
- *1 duck swims away.* (Remove 1 duck from the group.)
- *How many ducks are left?* (Have your child count and tell how many ducks are left.)



If you do not have small objects shaped like animals, you can use any small objects and explain that you will pretend they are ducks (or any animal that is your child's favorite).



Subtract Within 5

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to subtract within 5.

Subtraction problems in this lesson involve taking away part of a group of up to 5 objects and finding how many are left. In class, your child may use actual objects, connecting cubes, and/or counters on 5-frames to act out taking away part of a group.

When pictures of objects are shown with subtraction problems, you can cross out objects to show the action of taking away. Objects crossed out can be pictures of real-world objects, such as cups or balloons, or pictures of counters on 5-frames.

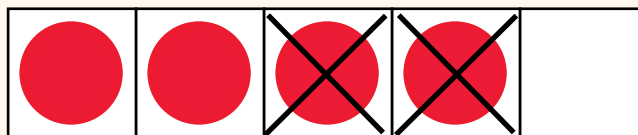
Connecting pictures, models, and subtraction stories to equations helps build a strong foundation for subtraction. Eventually your child will transition from solving problems shown with concrete objects or drawings to solving problems shown only with numbers.

Picture



$$4 - 2 = 2$$

5-Frame



$$4 - 2 = 2$$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about subtracting within 5 by doing the following activity together.

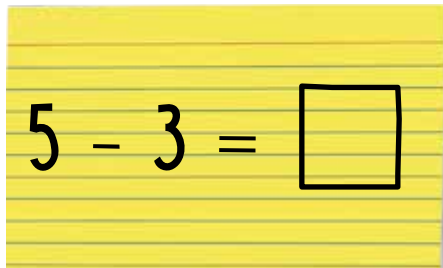


Activity Subtracting Within 5

Do this activity with your child to explore subtracting within 5.

Materials pencil, index cards or paper, 5 small objects (such as pennies, buttons, dried beans, or pasta shapes), cup

- On an index card or paper, write $5 - 3 = \square$.
- Place the subtraction problem and 5 pennies on the table.
- Point to the number 5 and say: *There are 5 pennies. How many do we need to take away?*
- Prompt your child to recognize that the minus sign and number 3 show that you need to take away 3. Have your child remove 3 pennies and place them in a cup.
- Ask: *How many pennies are left?* Have your child count the pennies on the table and write the answer in the box after the equal sign.



Repeat with other subtraction problems within 5, such as $3 - 1$, $5 - 2$, and $4 - 3$.

During your daily routine, encourage your child to use objects to model subtraction whenever you can. For example, when clearing the table, you might say: *There are 4 cups on the table. I am taking away 1. How many cups are left?* Model subtraction with up to 5 crayons, blocks, spoons, raisins, crackers, or other objects.

