Dear Family,

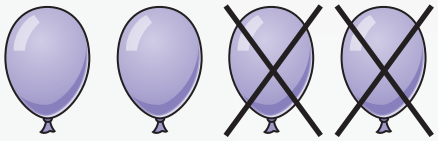
This week your child is learning to subtract within 5.

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.

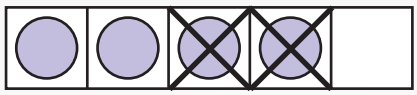
When pictures of objects are shown with subtraction problems, you can cross out objects to show the action of taking away. The lesson starts by crossing out pictures of real-world objects such as cups or balloons. Then it ends by crossing out pictures of counters on 5-frames.

Connecting pictures, models, and subtraction stories to number sentences 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



5-Frame



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

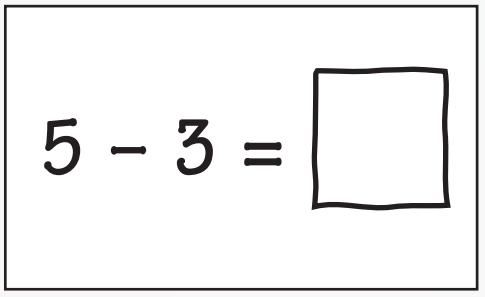
NEXT

Subtracting Within 5 Activity

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

Do the following activity to help your child model and solve subtraction problems within 5.

- 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?*
- Help your child 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 equals sign.



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

During your daily routine, help your child 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'm taking away 1. How many cups are left?* Model subtraction with up to 5 crayons, blocks, spoons, raisins, crackers, or other objects.