Subtraction

Your child will be learning about subtraction of a one-digit and two-digit number from a two-digit number over the coming days.

Game 1: Subtracting playing cards

In this activity, you, your child and other family members can play. Remove all picture (court) cards from a regular pack of playing cards. Give each player 10 cards. Your child (or each player) keeps his/her cards in a pile face down on the table. Have him/her turn over the top two cards and subtract the small number from the big number. For example: If s/he turns over a 6 and a 9, s/he takes 6 from 9 to get 3. If s/he gets his/her answer correct, s/he wins a cube. Play continues like this until all the cards are turned over. Whoever has the most cubes at the end of the game is the winner. All players can write their number sentences in a copy or on a sheet of paper, e.g. $9 - 6 = 3$.

Game 2: Subtracting on the hundred square

Make a hundred square or use the one that was made earlier in the year. Call out various decuples (10, 20, 30 … 90), e.g. 70. Ask your child to put a counter on 70 on his/her hundred square. Now ask him/her to put a counter on the number that is 10 less than 70; 20/10 less than 90; the decuple between 60 and 80; the decuple 20 less than 60; the decuple 20 less than 40, etc.

Extension work: Ask your child to put counters on any number from 1 to 99 on the hundred square, e.g. 25, 52, 95, etc. Ask him/her to put counters on 10 less than a particular number, etc.

Now say to your child: Let's subtract 3 from 48 on the hundred square. Allow him/her to try this out and discuss his/her strategies at arriving at a solution. Some children may just count back 3 from 48, etc.

Rows of objects

Ask your child to place a row of 17 buttons or anything else to hand in a row across the table. Have him/her then place a row of 14 marbles in one-to-one correspondence underneath the row of buttons.

You can ask questions such as:

- *How many buttons are there?*
- *How many marbles are there?*
- *How many more buttons are there than marbles?*
- *How many fewer marbles are there than buttons?*

Let's subtract 1

Display 18 straws, i.e. 1 group of 10 and 8 loose ones. Call out the following instructions/questions:

- *How many straws are there? (yes, 18)*
- *I am now going to take away/subtract 4 straws.*
- *How many straws have I now? (yes, 14)*

It is of vital importance to *physically take away* the 4 straws from the 18 straws. Discuss the value of the digits.

- *What is the value of the 1? (10)*
- *What is the value of the 4? (4)*

Extension work: Invite your child to solve various other problems involving subtraction of a one-digit number from a two-digit number without having to break up a ten. (Simply take away the units from the units only.)

Let's subtract 2

Display 37 lollipop sticks/cubes or straws with 3 groups of 10 and 7 loose ones. Call out the following instructions/questions:

- *How many lollipop sticks are there? (yes, 37)*
- *I am now going to take away/subtract 15 lollipop sticks.*
- *Let's subtract the units first. 7 take away 5 = 2. (physically remove them)*
- *Now let's subtract the 1 ten. 3 tens – 1 ten = 2 tens. (physically remove them)*
- *How many cubes are left now? Let's count them. (yes, 22)*

Extension work: Invite your child to solve various other problems involving subtraction of a two-digit number from a two-digit number without having to break up a ten. Simply take away the units from the units and the tens from the tens, e.g. $48 - 23 = 25$.