Adding and Subtracting Strategies, Part 1

These are some of the easier strategies we use to solve addition and subtraction facts. We learn to use them with small numbers first and then use them to help solve problems with larger numbers.

Counting On or Back

This strategy is used when adding or subtracting 1, 2, or 3 to any number.

For example for 7 + 2 = ___

Tell your child to hold the larger number in their head and count up 2. They hold the bigger number 7 in their head and count on 2 saying 8, 9. For subtracting 1, 2 or 3 we count back so for 7 – 2 we would start at 7 and count back 6, 5.

This works for larger numbers too. e.g. 47 + 2 = ___ would be 48, 49.

Adding or Subtracting 0

If we add or subtract 0 the number stays the same.

e.g. 5 + 0 = 5, 5 – 0 = 5 and 75 + 0 = 75, 75 – 75 = 0

Subtracting All

If we subtract a number from itself, the answer is 0.

e.g. 5 – 5 = 0 and 75 – 75 = 0

Double Facts

These are important to know as they are used in the near doubles plus 1, and the near doubles plus 2 strategies.

1 + 1= 2, 2 + 2 = 4, 3 + 3= 6, 4 + 4 = 8, 5 + 5 = 10, 6 + 6= 12, 7 + 7= 14, 8 + 8 = 16, 9 + 9= 18

If we know the adding doubles, we can use them to solve subtracting facts. I know 5 + 5 = 10 so 10 – 5 = 5.

Turn Around Facts

These are really easy!

e.g. 3 + 4 = 7 so 4 + 3 = 7

Ten Facts- These are important to know as they are used in making a 10 fact strategy.

1 + 9, 9 + 1, 2 + 8, 8 + 2, 3 + 7, 7 + 3, 4 + 6, 6 + 4, 5 + 5

We are starting to work on this strategy next. We call these facts a fact family.

Use Adding to Solve Subtracting

If I know 4 + 3 = 7 and 3 + 4 = 7 then I know 7 – 3 = 4 and 7 – 4 = 3.