

Grab Bag Subtraction: at Home

Addition/Subtraction: Practice

From the Developing Number Concepts Series by Kathy Richardson

Goals:

- Learn the parts of numbers to ten
- Determine the missing part of a number.
- Describing an action with an equation.

Materials:

- Counters (pennies, buttons, macaroni, etc.)
- Paper bag

Procedures:

1. The player puts a particular number of counters in a paper bag.
2. The player then reaches in and grabs some of the counters.
3. The student writes a subtraction equation to match.
4. Repeat multiple times using the same number of counters



"I put 6 buttons in the bag. I took out 2 so I counted on and I know there are 4 left in the bag."

$$6 - 2 = 4$$

What to watch for:

- Does the child know the part that is hiding quickly without counting or do they need to figure it out?
- Do they count in their mind or use their fingers, or do they need to lift the bowl to see?
- Do they know some parts but not all? For example, they might know the parts quickly for 3 and 3 or when only 1 is hiding, but if you show 2 and hide 4, that might be harder for them.

Suggestions: If the child needs to figure out some of the parts, use a smaller number until you find a number the child knows easily. Then practice with numbers that are just one or two bigger. For example, if they know all the parts for 4, they should work most of the time with 5 and 6.