

Plus-and-Minus Train: At Home

Addition and Subtraction

From the Developing Number Concepts Series by Kathy Richardson

Goal(s):

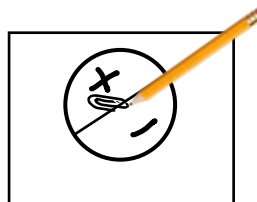
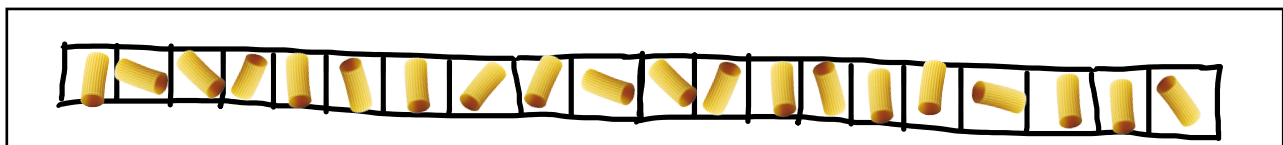
- Recognize the plus and minus signs and add or subtract according to the sign
- Begin to notice what number they end up with when adding or subtracting
- Tell how many altogether or how many left after adding or taking away counters

Materials:

- Plus-and-Minus Game Board
- Counters such as pennies, beans, macaroni, Legos, etc.
- Dice (1-6 or 4-9) or Numeral cards in a bag (1-6 or 4-9))
- Plus-or-Minus Spinner

Procedures:

1. The child plays with a partner. Each partner has a game board.
2. Each partner fills the Plus-and-Minus Game Board with 20 counters.
3. The partners take turns rolling the die (or pulling a numeral card from a bag) and spinning the spinner to see how many to add or take away.
For example: This child rolled a 6. The spinner landed on the plus sign. The board was full so she could not add any counters and she lost her turn. If it had been minus, she would have removed 6 counters.
4. The partners continue taking turns until one of them clears all the counters.



What to watch for:

- Does the child begin to add or take away right after they spin or do they take a bit of time to remember what to do?
- Does the child count one by one to add or take away or can they add or subtract some groups?
- Extension: Do they ever predict how many they will have before they add or subtract?

Suggestion(s):

Ask: Now that you have added some on (or taken some off), how many are on the board now?