



Family Math Letter: Unit 1

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about addition and subtraction. They will review addition combinations, such as doubles and near-doubles as well as ways to make 10. They will solve problems with multiple addends and consider whether order matters in addition. For example, does $7 + 4 + 3 + 6 = 7 + 3 + 4 + 6$?

Students will practice addition and subtraction story problems, investigate even and odd numbers, and will learn to use the inverse operation to check addition and subtraction problems.

In addition, we will begin exploring concepts that support the multiplication and division work students will do in unit 5, review coin names and values, and continue working on coin equivalency. Further work on money concepts and skills will be addressed in unit 2.

Activities to Try at Home:

Counting by Groups Look for opportunities to practice counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Count together and see how high you can go. Think about situations that involve equal groups. Pose questions such as these: "If you have 8 pairs of socks, how many socks do you have? If there are 5 people sitting on a bench, how many toes will there be?"

Trading Coins Together, examine coins and ask your child to tell you about each one. Talk about equivalencies. "Here are two dimes. How much is this worth? Can you find another way to make 20¢?" "Let's trade coins. I'll give you 2 nickels for 1 dime."

Math and Literature Here are some children's books that contain ideas related to our work in this mathematics unit. Look for them in your local public library and read them together.

- Cristaldi, Kathryn, *Even Steven and Odd Todd*
- Hamm, Diane Johnson. *How Many Feet in the Bed?*
- Hoban, Tana, *26 Letters and 99 Cents*
- Hong, Lily Toy, *Two of Everything: A Chinese Folktale*
- Pinczes, Elinor J, *One Hundred Hungry Ants*
- Tang, Greg, *The Grapes of Math*
- Williams, Rozanne Lanczak, *The Coin Counting Book*

In our math class, students continue to engage in math problems and activities and share how they solve a given problem. Most important is that children accurately solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her thinking to you.

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Team