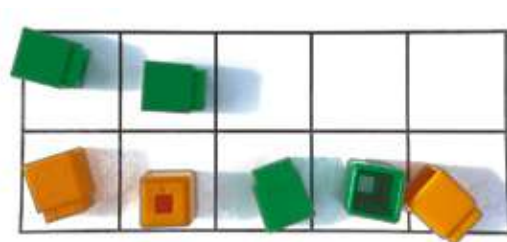
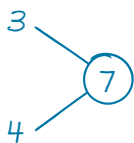


FAMILY MATH

Model Composition and Decomposition in Story Problems

Dear Family,

Students are learning to solve story problems. The foundational work of breaking apart and putting together numbers is now applied by using story contexts. Students listen to a story and discuss what they know and don't know to help them make sense of the story. Students then model and solve the problem by using objects, fingers, drawings, or their memory.



At-Home Activities

Activity Idea 1 Nature Stories

Take a walk or drive with your child. Create stories with objects you find outside. For example, “I see 3 big rocks and 2 small rocks. How many rocks are there?” Give your child time to count the rocks to find how many.

Activity Idea 2 Story Problem

Give your child a group of 7 items, such as beans, toys, or markers. Invite them to listen to the following story. *There are 7 beans. Some are on the table and some are on the floor.* Ask them to imagine how many beans could be on the table and on the floor. Then ask them to use the beans to show you what they imagine and draw a number bond to match. Repeat the story again and ask your child to break apart the 7 beans a different way.

Modeling Story Problems

Work with story problems is foundational to understanding the relationship of addition and subtraction. In the classroom, students identify and choose math tools to help them show the problem and explain their thinking. Drawing allows students to recreate the story and make sense of the problem. Making sense of the story eliminates the need to have students look for key words, such as *more* and *less*, to help them know whether they should add or subtract. Key words can be misleading and detract from students' overall understanding.

In kindergarten, students learn the difference between art and math drawings. Art takes time and includes details, but math drawings are simple and quick. Students see that math drawings are a more efficient way to organize and keep track of information.

Art Drawing



Math Drawing

