



# Helping your child with maths at home

Maths can be a tricky subject to help your child with at home, as maths teaching has changed over the years. The many different ways children are taught to understand number in school provides children with a choice of using the method which works for them. Some of the main strategies for addition and subtraction are mentioned below. If your child does not understand their maths homework, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher.

Addition strategies	Top tips	Example
Using a 100 square.	Children can still use resources like 100 squares as they begin to understand number up to 100. They can add 1 by counting along the horizontal lines or add 10 or multiples of 10 quickly by moving down the hundred square vertically. A hundred square is in their homework book inside the front cover.	
Using a number line	Children can count along a number line to help them with addition.	
Add beginning with the larger number.	Addition can be done in any order, and it is easier to begin with the larger number, then count on.	Instead of $3 + 63 = 66$ Try $63 + 3 = 66$
Using number bonds to help them add	Number bonds allow children to know what number needs to be added to any single digit to make 10. Know these can help them count on quickly as they learn to count on in 10s.	$14 + 16 =$ $10 + 10 + (4+6 = 10)$ $= 30$
Using doubles	If children know their doubles, they can use those to add quickly.	$16 + 6 =$ $10 + (6 + 6 = 12)$ $= 22$
Using near doubles	If children know their doubles, they can use them to add up quickly even if the numbers are not exactly doubles.	$12 + 13 =$ $10 + 10 + (2+2 = 4) + 1$ $= 25$
Partitioning numbers into tens and units	Every 2-digit number is made up of a tens number and a units number. $53 = 50$ (tens number) + $3$ (units number). If your child can partition into tens and units, they can add two 2-digit numbers together more easily by using partitioning.	$23 + 46 =$ $20 + 3 + 40 + 6 =$ $(20 + 40 = 60) + (3 + 6 = 9)$ $= 69$
Knowing times tables	Learning their times tables allows children to count on much more quickly than in single digits. Practice their times tables regularly, and this will really help their maths. Try challenge games 'Me vs You' or against the clock, or making up songs with their times tables in them.	$30 + 25 =$  $30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55$ $= 55$
Using	Some children find tens numbers really easy to	$23 + 11 =$

nearly 10s	work with, as they are nice, round numbers. Encourage your child to use their 10s numbers when adding by making little adjustments.	$23 + 10 + 1 =$ $33 + 1 =$ 34
Column method	The style we parents are most familiar with, understanding column value may be your child's best way to understand addition and subtraction. Please encourage your child to understand that tens numbers are multiples of 10, not single digits.	$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ \underline{25} + \\ 39 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ \underline{27} + \\ 41 \\ \hline \end{array}$
Subtraction strategies	Top Tips	Examples
Using a 100 square.	They can subtract 1 by counting back along the horizontal lines or subtract 10 or multiples of 10 quickly by moving up the hundred square vertically. A hundred square is in their homework book inside the front cover.	
Using a number line	Children can count back along a number line to help them with subtraction.	
Using halves	If children know their halves, they can use those to subtract quickly.	$12 - 6 = 6$ (because half 12 is 6)
Using near halves	If children know their halves, they can use them to subtract quickly even if the numbers are not exactly halves.	$12 - 5 =$ $12 - 6 + 1 =$ $= 7$
Partitioning numbers into tens and units	If your child can partition into tens and units, they can subtract two 2-digit numbers more easily by using partitioning.	$46 - 23 =$ $(40 - 20) + (6 - 3) =$ $= 23$
Knowing times tables	Learning their times tables allows children to count back much more quickly than in single digits.	$50 - 25 =$  25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50
Using nearly 10s	Some children find tens numbers really easy to work with, as they are nice, round numbers. Encourage your child to use their 10s numbers when subtracting by making little adjustments.	$23 - 11 =$ $23 - 10 - 1 =$ $13 - 1 =$ 12 Or $23 - 9 =$ $23 - 10 + 1 =$ $= 14$
Know that subtraction is the inverse of addition	Subtraction undoes addition, and if your child knows this they can grasp 4 number sentences in their head from know just one. This can help them work out subtractions.	$3 + 4 = 7$ So... $4 + 3 = 7$ So... $7 - 4 = 3$ So... $7 - 3 = 4$
Column method	Please encourage your child to understand that tens numbers are multiples of 10, not single digits.	$\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \underline{14} - \\ 11 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 2 \ 1 \\ \cancel{33} \\ \underline{14} - \\ 19 \end{array}$

### Other top tips...

- Encourage your children to be aware of number when you are with them.
- Ask them to recognise the numbers on the back of football or rugby players.
- Talk to them about prices when you are in the shops.
- Ask them to recognise the numbers on buses.
- Ask them to add up their own pocket money or piggy bank money.
- Encourage them to measure objects, not just with rulers but with their hands or feet.