Supporting Your Child With Addition and Subtraction

Your child is taught a number of mental strategies that allow them to add and subtract successfully. As their confidence grows they will be able to select the right strategy based on the problem they are faced with. We also teach formal written strategies but encourage the use of a mental strategy first.

PARTITIONING:

Partitioning means to split a number down into smaller chunks. It is used to break bigger numbers down to make calculations easier.

Partitioning to help with adding:

27 + 58 =

Add the tens: 20 + 50 = 70
Add the ones: 7 + 8 = 16
Add your answers: 50 + 16 = 66

Partitioning to help with subtraction:

54 – 13 =

Subtract the tens: 54 – 10 = 44
Subtract the ones: 44 – 3 = 41

BRIDGING:

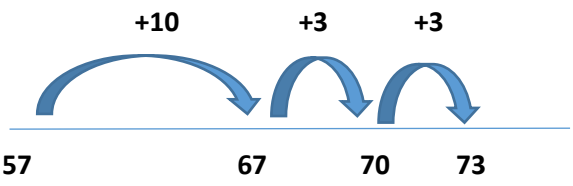
Bridging through the ten is a method that most people use to add and subtract numbers without even realizing it. E.G. 7 + 5 – you add 3 to get to 10 and then need to add 2 more to make 12.

NUMBER LINE and BRIDGING:

The number line method is very helpful to support children to visualise bridging through the 10.

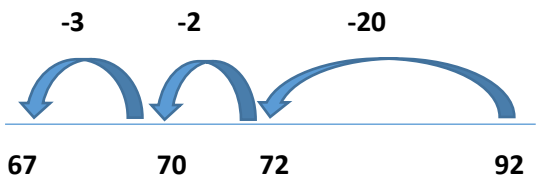
Bridging to help with adding:

57 + 16 = 73



Bridging to help with subtraction:

92 – 25 = 67



ROUNDING and ADJUSTING METHOD:

The rounding and adjusting method is a useful strategy that involves rounding to the nearest ten and then adjusting your answer.

Rounding and adjusting to help with adding:

45 + 29 = ?

29 is very close to 30 and adding 30 is easier

45 + 30 = 75

You then need to adjust the answer by 1 as you have added 1 too many

75 – 1 = 74

Rounding and adjusting to help with subtraction:

45 – 29 = ?

29 is very close to 30 and subtracting 30 is easier

45 – 30 = 15

You then need to adjust the answer by 1 as you have taken away 1 too many

15 + 1 = 16

How Can I Help My Child?

- Practice Number Bonds to 10/20 – these are the fundamental building blocks to success with addition and subtraction – Number bonds are pairs of numbers that make up a total. For example, the number bonds for 4 are 0 + 4, 1 + 3, and 2 + 2.
- Practice doubling and halving 1, 2 and then 3-digit numbers
- Reinforce the link between adding and subtraction. If 9 + 7 = 16 then 16 – 9 = 7 and 16 – 7 = 9
- Encourage them to verbalise 'what they are doing in their head'. What strategy have they used? Why have they chosen this approach?

Links and Resources to Find Out More:

- Learning Together Session 2: Addition and Subtraction (09/06/20) (youtube.com)
- How can partitioning help me add two digit numbers? - BBC Bitesize
- How can bridging through 10 help me to add and subtract? - BBC Bitesize