## Using Lego to learn subtraction number bonds



Start with one 'complete' tower made up of two different colours (the starting number):


Split the tower in two by 'taking away' one colour (the rest of the sum). You will be left with one remaining colour (the answer):
$-3=4$

Challenge: Create split towers to show all the possible combinations for each answer and arrange them in order, e.g. $7-7=0,7-6=1,7-5=2,7-4=3,7-3=4,7-2=5,7-1=6,7-0=7$.

Using Playdoh, Counters, Buttons, Cubes or other small items
makes 5?

## to learn subtraction number bonds

Print out the robot template below. Laminate it or place it in a polypocket if you want to be able to use a whiteboard pen to write on and erase your answers. Write a number in the space at the start of the sum then write a number that is the same or smaller to complete the sum. Use small items (e.g. balls of playdoh, counters - preferably in two different colours) to make the first number and place them on the robot's tummy. Pull away enough items to match the second number and place them in the robot's hands (or even on its head if you like!). The remaining number of items left in the tummy is the answer. Record it to finish the sum.

Challenge: Try to find and show all the different ways to take away from your starting number (see Lego challenge for example).

## Using leaves, stones, sticks or other small items

## to learn subtraction number bonds outdoors

Do you fancy taking your learning outside? Then print out the tree card below. Laminate it or place it in a polypocket if you want to be able to use a whiteboard pen to write on and erase your answers. Write a number in the space at the start of the sum then write a number that is the same or smaller to complete the sum. Use small outdoor items (e.g. stones, daisies) to make the first number and place them on the tree. Pull away enough items to match the second number and drop them below the tree. The remaining number of items left on the tree is the answer. Record it to finish the sum.

Challenge: Try to find and show all the different ways to take away from your starting number (see Lego challenge for example).



