

Hillsborough County Public Schools  
Elementary Mathematics Parent Connection

Grade 1 – Unit 2: Addition and Subtraction Strategies [Part One]

In this unit your child will work to build an understanding of the following:

- Counting on or back as a strategy to add and subtract
  - Counting on from a certain number is the same as adding to that number. Counting on from the greater addend is a helpful strategy that can foster mental math skills.
    - This strategy is usually limited to addends of 1, 2, and 3 because it is less efficient to count on using numbers greater than 3.
    - Understanding that numbers can be added in any order to get the same sum is essential to using this strategy.
  - Counting back from a number builds children’s mental math skills. This strategy lays a foundation for subtracting greater numbers and recognizing patterns between numbers within 100.
  - Students use math tools, number lines, and hundreds charts to help them count on and count back. Some items you can use at home include beans, cotton balls, cereal, pennies, or dominoes.
  - A common mistake made by students is to include the starting number when counting on or back. If your child is having trouble with this, have him/her point to the starting number and whisper it, then count on or back by saying the numbers aloud.
- Using doubles facts, doubles +1 and doubles -1 to add
  - Research shows that many children remember doubles facts easier than other facts with sums within 20. It is important for children to be able to identify doubles facts and to develop quick recall of their sums.
  - The doubles facts can be used to find the sums to near doubles facts (doubles +1/doubles -1). For example, children can use the doubles fact  $8 + 8 = 16$  to quickly find the sum of  $8 + 9$  by adding 1 to the sum of  $8 + 8$ .

Check out the “Parent Quick Smarts” video by scanning the QR code or the Internet link provided.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRu31IZ-CIw>

Other Helpful Links:

<http://goo.gl/gBKR6p> - Interactive number line

<http://goo.gl/sgThny> - Animated Lessons

- Skill 13: Count on to Add
- Skill 14: Add Doubles
- Skill 15: Doubles Plus One
- Skill 19: Count Back to Subtract Facts to 12

<http://goo.gl/Hk5wqc> - Addition/Subtraction games:

Country Countdown, Counting Critters

- O. Doubles and Doubles Plus 1 – Facts to 20
- Numberopolis, Cross Town Number Line
- H. 0-20: Count on to Add
  - I. 0-20: Count Back to Subtract

Sample tasks your child should be able to work through by the end of the unit:

There are 16 people at a party. Some are boys and some are girls. The number of boys is the same as the number of girls. Write an equation to represent the boys and girls at the party.

Would you use *count on* or *doubles* to solve  $3 + 4$ ? Explain your thinking.

Allison had 5 peppermints and gave 2 to Brandon. How many peppermints does Allison have now? Tell which strategy you used and why.