



Activities for Home

Dear Families,

This week in Maths we are thinking about 'Number Neighbours'. Spotting number neighbours helps children solve some of the subtractions they can find hard, like $6 - 5$ and $9 - 7$. We have learnt that if the numbers we are subtracting are next door number neighbours, like in $6 - 5$, the difference (answer) is 1. If the numbers we are subtracting are odd number neighbours or even number neighbours, like $9 - 7$, the difference (answer) is 2. Here are some simple activities you can do at home to support your child's learning:

Odd and even counting

Build counting in odds and evens (forwards and backwards) into routines with your child. For example you might count backward from 20 in even numbers (20, 18, 16) while you rinse their hair in the bath, or you might count forwards in odd numbers (1, 3, 5 etc.) and see if they can get their pyjamas on before you get to 19. The facts we are learning at school use odds and evens within 10, but counting in odds and evens beyond 10 will help your child get familiar with how the pattern continues. Let your child choose how you count. Will they choose odds or evens? Will they choose forwards or backwards? Encourage your child to count along with you! If you live on a street with numbered houses, you can use your walk to school to practise the counting pattern too. Will your child choose to walk on the odd side or the even side? Say the number of each house as you pass it.

Odd number neighbours, even number neighbours

Cut out the activity cards and take one set of cards to 10 each. Each of you turns over your top card at the same time. If they are next door number neighbours then the first to shout, "Difference of 1!" takes the pair. If they are odd or even number neighbours, then the first to shout, "Difference of 2!" takes the pair. When you have been through your cards once, one of you can put one to the bottom and go through them again. Are there any more number neighbour pairs you can make? You can start to use the language of subtraction. "That's right, 9 and 7 have a difference of 2. 9 minus 7 is 2."

Matching pairs

Lay the activity cards face down on the table. Turn up two cards. If they have a difference of 1 (next door number neighbours) or a difference of 2 (odd or even number neighbours) you keep the pair and get another go. If not it is your partner's turn. (You won't necessarily be able to make number neighbour pairs from all of the cards left on the table, so if you don't think there are more pairs left then play again.)

Talking Tip

Repeat the activities several times until you feel your child has understood what number neighbours are, both next door number neighbours as well as odd and even number neighbours. There are many games you can play – do not feel restricted to these ones. Just bring the focus to activities where you are looking at a difference of 1 (next door number neighbours) and/or a difference of 2 (odd or even number neighbours).