

**Learning Focus—Informal addition and subtraction**

This module gives your child experiences with joining two quantities, and with taking a smaller quantity away from a larger quantity.

Act out and describe adding within five

The children investigate addition using stories and hands-on materials. At this age, children should only explore addition situations that involve an action. For example, "There are three bears. Two more bears walked over to join them. How many bears are there now?" Addition at the pre-Kindergarten level should not involve symbolic numbers or symbols such as + or =.



When shopping, have your child put three of one product, such as three apples, in a bag and then have them put two more of the same item in the same bag. Ask, "How many apples are in the bag now?" Encourage them to tell a story about the apples.

When folding laundry, ask your child to find two socks that make a pair and fold them together. Ask, "How many socks did you fold?" Encourage them to tell a story about the socks.

Act out and describe subtracting within five

The children investigate subtraction using stories and hands-on materials. At this age, children should only explore subtraction situations that involve an action. For example, "There are five ducks. Two ducks fly away. How many ducks are left?" Subtraction at the pre-Kindergarten level should not involve symbolic numbers, or symbols such as - or =.



When eating breakfast or a snack, ask your child to count five items, such as strawberries, on their plate. Then, have them eat three strawberries. Ask, "How many strawberries are left on your plate now?" Encourage them to tell a story about the strawberries.

When washing or drying dishes, ask your child to count the dishes in the sink (up to five). Then take some dishes out of the sink and ask, "How many dishes are in the sink now?" Encourage them to tell a story about the dishes.

Please help by sending the following:

- Different sizes of a single kind of clothing—socks, T-shirts, gloves
- One pair of socks—send an unusual texture if possible
- Child-friendly magazines, catalogs, and mailers