

FAMILY MATH

Find an Unknown Part by Using Addition and Subtraction

Dear Family,

Your student is learning to solve for the unknown part of a word problem by using addition and subtraction. They also learn to count on or count back to subtract. Sometimes it can be easier to count back when the known part is close to the total. Number bonds help your student think about how to use a related addition fact to subtract.

Key Terms

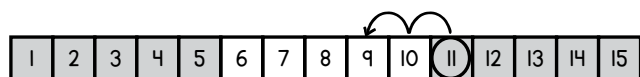
known part

number bond

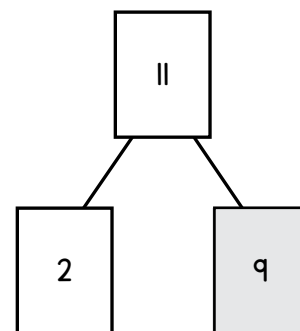
unknown part



$$2 + \boxed{9} = 11$$



$$11 - 2 = \boxed{9}$$



The number bond shows the parts of 11 as 2 and 9.

At-Home Activities

How Many Are Hiding?

Count out 10 or 15 small items such as blocks, pennies, or toothpicks, and place them on a table. Then hide some of them in your hand and close it. Have your student count the number of items that are left on the table, and then ask how many you have hiding in your hand. Allow your student to use the number path and encourage them to explain their thinking. Your student can check their answer by counting the items hidden in your hand.

What Is My Number?

Encourage your student to use their understanding of parts and the total by doing the following activity. You each pick a number between 1 and 10. Your student says their number, and you say the sum of their number and your number. Then your student has to guess your number. For example:

- You pick 6 without sharing it aloud. Your student picks 5. You say, “Our numbers have a total of 11. What is my number?”
- Switch. Ask your student to pick a number without sharing it aloud. Then you say a number. Encourage your student to add the two numbers, share the total, and ask you, “What is my number?” Explain your thinking.