

New words for addition and subtraction activities

1 Sort the words into two groups

Children sort the six word cards — plus, add, and, minus, take away, subtract — into a plus pile and a minus pile.

"Read each word. Which pile does it belong in — plus or minus?"

"How do you know? What do all the words in each pile have in common?"

2 Say the word, build the sentence

The teacher or a partner says a word out loud. Children pick number cards and the matching symbol card to build a simple number sentence — for example, 3, add, 2 — while saying the word aloud.

"I say 'subtract'. Build five, subtract, two using your cards."

"I say 'and'. Build three, and, four using your cards."

3 Say it a different way

Given one word for a sign, children say a different word that means the same sign.

"I said 'add'. Can you say this sign a different way?"

"I said 'take away'. What is another word for the same sign?"

4 Non-example: a word in the wrong pile

Place the word 'subtract' in the plus pile and ask children to check it.

"I put 'subtract' in the plus pile. Is that right?"

"Which pile does it actually belong in? How do you know?"

Word and sign cards

plus

add

and

minus

take away

subtract

+

-

Number cards 0–10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10		