



Using Children's Literature to Support Addition and Subtraction

Use this handout to plan ways to use children's literature to support addition and subtraction.

1. Select children's literature that encourages children to add or subtract. Consider selecting culturally and linguistically responsive books that reflect children's identities, communities, and interests. The Count Play Explore website provides resources to promote early math learning while reading. The website includes book guides and related activities. The book guides include math ideas to explore before, during, and after reading a book, and the math activities correspond to each suggested book.
2. Plan for ways to use the story to support children to add or subtract. First, read the story yourself and make a note of opportunities in the text and pictures to discuss addition and subtraction. Consider how you might prompt children to add and subtract while sharing the story or plan for ways you might develop a learning experience inspired by the story. Use the M5 prompts below to guide your planning:
 - a. **Mutual Learning.** How might you build on children's interests, languages, abilities, cultures and lived experiences, and emerging knowledge and skills? Select a book based on what you know about children or ask families and caregivers to provide a list of their favorite books they read at home. Consider ways the book, or your planned experiences inspired by the book, might connect with children's lives.
 - b. **Meaningful Investigations.** In what ways does the book provide children with authentic addition and subtraction problems? How might you engage children in addition and subtraction while reading them this book or in an inquiry activity after reading the book?
 - c. **Materials and Learning Environment.** What materials might you provide children to support them to add or subtract as it relates to the story? What props related to the story might you use to invite children to engage in hands-on addition and subtraction experiences? What might you add to the environment (for example, the dramatic play area)?
 - d. **Math Vocabulary and Discourse.** What math vocabulary do you notice in the story? How might you support children to understand and use this vocabulary? How might you use children's home languages to support children's understanding of new math vocabulary? How might you encourage children to explain and discuss their answers?





- e. **Multiple Representations.** How might you encourage children to add or subtract in different ways related to the story (for example, using objects, photos, drawing, or gestures)?

Other Ways to Use Literature to Support Addition and Subtraction

1. Consider creating stories based on what you know about children and their daily lives. Select the math vocabulary and strategies you would like children to practice beforehand and have children provide suggestions as you create the story together. You might also encourage children to draw pictures and create a math story about these pictures together.
2. Share book recommendations with families. Share the math concepts and vocabulary you are learning in class so that families can support children's understanding in their everyday lives.

