

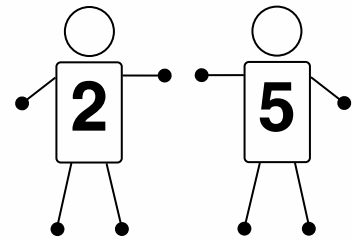


Dear Family:

Your child is starting to discover the smaller numbers that are “hiding” inside a larger number. He or she will be participating in activities that help your child master addition, subtraction, and equation building.

To make the concepts clear, this program uses some special vocabulary and materials that we would like to share. Below are two important words that your child is learning:

- **Partners:** Partners are two numbers that can be put together to make a larger number. For example, 2 and 5 are partners that go together to make the number 7.



Partners of 7

- **Break Apart:** Children can “break apart” a larger number to form two smaller numbers. Your child is using objects and drawings to explore ways of “breaking apart” numbers of ten or less.

Children can discover the break-aparts of a number by coloring circles in two colors. They first draw the “break-apart line” and then color the circles to show the different partners, as shown below. Sometimes they also write the partners on a special break-apart train, which is also shown below.

Before			After	

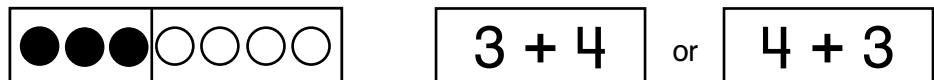
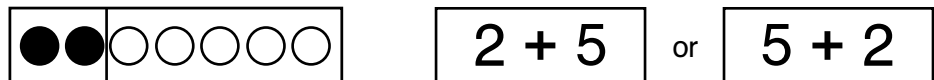
4-train

$1 + 3$	$2 + 2$	$3 + 1$
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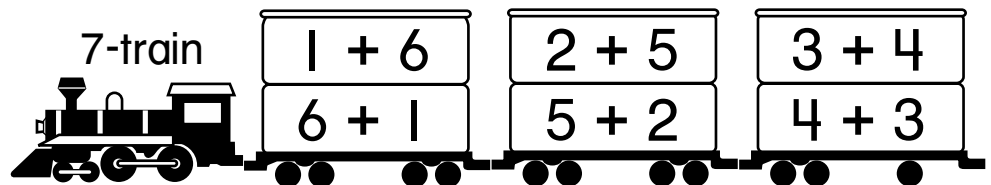
Later children will discover that partners can change places without changing the total. This concept is called “switch the partner.” Once children understand switching partners, they can find the break-aparts of a number more quickly. They simply switch each pair of partners as they discover them.

Shown below are the break-aparts and switched partners of number 7. Sometimes children also write this information on a double-decker train.

Break-Aparts of 7



Double-Decker Train



You will see the break-apart circles and the break-apart train often on your child’s math homework. Be ready to offer help if it is needed. Children are doing these activities in class, but they may still need help at home.

If you have any questions or problems, please talk to your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,
Your child’s teacher