

**1 – Daily Fluency Activity, Give Me 10! (large or small group, about 3 minutes) ← Great Transition Activity!**

Throughout the day, announce “It’s time to give me 10!” and engage children in 10 reps of a movement activity, such as jumping jacks, clapping hands, or hopping. Vary with different numbers and different movements.

**2 – Daily Fluency Activity, Counting Challenge (large or small group, about 5 minutes)**

Let the children decide what they want to count! For example: Today I am going to count the windows in the room...the backpacks...the markers at my table. The first few days/weeks, give them limits (for example, don’t start by counting all books or all the blocks) but challenge themselves with bigger numbers as you repeat this daily challenge for the remainder of the school year.

**3 - Concept Introduction (small group, about 8 minutes)**

- In advance, prepare a “stage” to act out your subtraction stories. This can be as simple as using painter’s tape to designate an area on the carpet. Have a white board or chalk board available for your own use.
- Working with a group of 4-6 children, introduce the idea of subtraction stories:
  - Invite 3 children to sit on the stage. While saying the word problem, tap students to indicate when they become part of the action. Say, "Listen to my subtraction story: Three friends are dancing. One friend stops to sit down."
  - Ask, "Who can tell the story again?" Then ask, "How many friends did we take away?"
  - Ask, "How many friends are dancing now?" Provide wait time. Then, signal the students to answer. Write 2 on the board, saying "2 friends."
  - Ask, "Who remembers the question?" Guide half the children to restate the question and half to say the answer.
  - Select four new actors. Say, "Four frogs are on a log. One jumps off." Invite a student to retell the story.
  - Repeat Steps 2–3, asking, "How many frogs are left?"
  - Repeat as time allows with other problems, such as: “Five dancers are on the stage. One dancer jumps off the stage. How many dancers are left?”

**4 – Learning Centers**

Use balls of playdough to practice basic subtraction concepts, as described here:

<http://mamapapabubba.com/2015/01/08/play-dough-subtraction-smash/>

