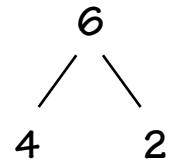




Dear Family:

Your child has started a new unit on story problems. Because most children this age are not strong readers, your child will probably need help reading the story problems. Offer help when it is needed, but do not give the answer.

To solve story problems, children first need to know which number is unknown. Is it the total or one of the parts? This program helps children focus on this important issue by introducing "Math Mountains." In a Math Mountain, the total sits at the top and the parts (or partners) sit at the bottom of the mountain. Children can quickly see the relationship between the partners and the total when they look at the mountain.

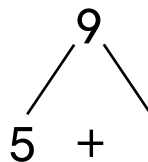


Math Mountain

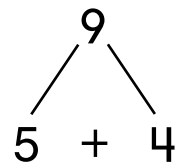
Math Mountains are especially helpful in showing students how to find an unknown partner, as in the following problem: *I see 9 horses. 5 are black, and the others are white. How many horses are white?*

Children can find the answer by drawing the mountain to see which number is unknown. Then they count on from the partner they know to the total. In this way, they can find the partner they don't know.

Math Mountain with Unknown Partner



4 more to 9



If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Your child's teacher