



Dear Family:

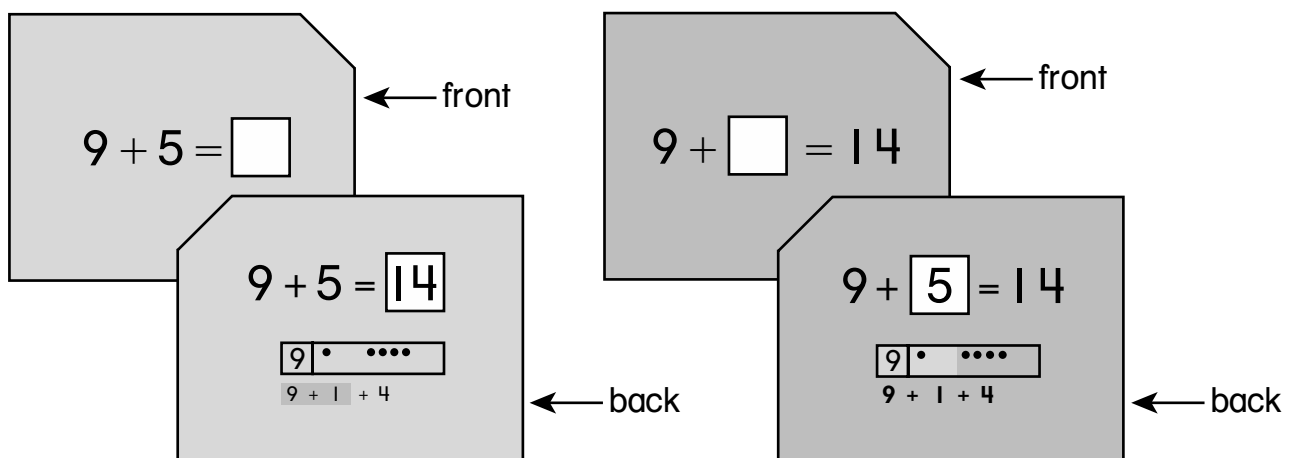
In Units 4 and 5, your child has been solving teen addition and subtraction problems by counting all or by counting on. Now your child is moving beyond these methods and working with a new method called the **Make-a-Ten strategy**. The strategy is explained below.

In a teen addition problem such as $9 + 5$, children break apart the lesser number to make a ten with the greater number. Because $9 + 1 = 10$, they break apart 5 into $1 + 4$. Then they add the extra 4 onto 10 to find the total. A similar method is used to find unknown addends with teen totals and in teen subtraction. Children look for ways to make a ten because it is easier to add onto 10.

In the *Math Expressions* program, Make-A-Ten Cards help children use this method. Each card has a problem on the front. The back shows the answer and illustrates the Make-a-Ten strategy using pictures of dots. Below the pictures are corresponding numbers to help children understand how to make a ten. Practice the method with your child. As you continue to practice the Make-a-Ten strategy with your child, your child will become more adept at using mental math.

If you have any question about the Make-a-Ten strategy, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher



Make-a-Ten Cards