



## Dear Family:

Your child has begun a unit that focuses on developing analytical skills in order to examine, classify, sort, and solve story problems.

Children will analyze and solve story problems with various unknowns, using counting on, the Make a Ten strategy, and numeric methods. Although stick-and-circle drawings continue to be acceptable, children should begin to use numeric methods (such as New Group Below) more frequently as they grow more comfortable with the concept of place value.

For the first time, children will be asked to solve story problems involving items that are different, yet fall under the same category. Recognizing “unlike terms” will sharpen children’s logical awareness and classification skills, as well as expose them to more vocabulary. The following is an example of a category story problem:

*At the petting zoo, Amanda fed four goats. Then she fed two lambs. How many animals did she feed in all?*

Once children are familiar with category story problems, they will begin to differentiate between important information for solving the problem and irrelevant information. The following is an example of a story problem with extra information:

*Jorge read six books and eight magazines last month. He read nine more books this month. How many books has Jorge read altogether?*

As children learn to analyze story problems, they will also create their own problems using skills they acquire in each lesson. These original story problems will be shared and solved during the Story Problem Festival at the end of the unit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Your child’s teacher