



Dear Family,

Your child has learned to solve addition problems by counting on to find the total. Now your child will use **partner counting on** to solve "mystery" addition problems ( $5 + \square = 9$ ) and subtraction problems ( $9 - 5 = \square$ ).

### Partner Counting On

#### Mystery Addition

**Partner Counting On** Children count on from the partner they know to the total in order to find the unknown partner. The answer is how many numbers they counted on.

$$5 + \square = 9$$

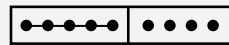
Already 5       $\begin{matrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \end{matrix}$       Stop when I hear 9.

I count 4 more to make 9 so 4 is the unknown partner. So,  $5 + \boxed{4} = 9$ .

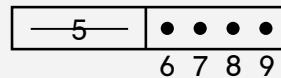
#### Subtraction

**Take Away** For subtraction, children's first method is take away, but you have to draw all 9 dots.

$$9 - 5 = \square$$



Draw 9 dots.  
Cross out 5.



**Partner Counting On** Counting on from 5 to 9 is faster and easier: You only make dots for the difference.

Already took away 5.      Stop when I hear 9.  
4 more to make 9.  
So,  $9 - 5 = \boxed{4}$ .

**Finger Method** Some children may choose to use their fingers to count on from the partner to the total.



Thank you for helping your child learn mathematics.

Sincerely,  
Your child's teacher