



Dear Family,

Your child is now learning how to add 3-digit numbers. First, children do this with methods they invent themselves or they extend the drawings they did for 2-digit addition.

Children solve the great "mystery" of addition: a hundred can be made from the extra tens, and a ten can be made from the extra ones. *Math Expressions* shows children these two simple methods for 3-digit addition.

New Groups Below

<p>Step 1</p> $\begin{array}{r} 456 \\ + 278 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$	<p>Step 2</p> $\begin{array}{r} 456 \\ + 278 \\ \hline 34 \end{array}$	<p>Step 3</p> $\begin{array}{r} 456 \\ + 278 \\ \hline 734 \end{array}$	
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Children put the new 1 hundred or 1 ten on the line instead of at the top of the column. Many children find this less confusing because:

They can see the 14.
It is easier to add the 1 after they add the 5 and the 7.

Show All Totals

$\begin{array}{r} 456 \\ + 278 \\ \hline \end{array}$ <p>hundreds → 600 tens → 120 ones → 14</p> 734	<p>Children see the hundreds, tens, and ones they are adding. Children may also use the New Groups Above.</p> $\begin{array}{r} 456 \\ + 278 \\ \hline 734 \end{array}$ <p>These also can be seen when they make a math drawing like the one above.</p>
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Children may use any method that they understand, can explain, and can do fairly quickly. They should use hundreds, tens, and ones language to explain. This shows that they understand that they are adding 4 hundreds and 2 hundreds and not 4 and 2.

Please call if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher