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 + □ = 9) and subtraction problems (9 – 5 = □).

### 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.

  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  5 + \square = 9 \\
  \end{array}
  \]
  
  Already 5 \hspace{1cm} 6 \hspace{1cm} 7 \hspace{1cm} 8 \hspace{1cm} 9 \hspace{1cm} \text{Stop when I hear 9.}
  
  I count 4 more to make 9 so 4 is the unknown partner. So, 5 + 4 = 9.

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

  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  9 - 5 = \square \\
  \end{array}
  \]
  
  Draw 9 dots. Cross out 5.
  
  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  5 \\
  6 \hspace{1cm} 7 \hspace{1cm} 8 \hspace{1cm} 9 \\
  \end{array}
  \]
  

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

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

  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  \text{Finger Method} \quad \text{Some children may choose to use their fingers to count on from the partner to the total.} \\
  \end{array}
  \]

Thank you for helping your child learn mathematics.

*Sincerely,*

*Your child’s teacher*