

Dear Family,

**This week your child is learning to find the numbers that make 3, 4, and 5.**



Numbers can be thought of as being made up of combinations of other numbers. For example, 4 is made up of 1 and 3, 2 and 2, or 3 and 1. Thinking of numbers this way will help your child prepare for adding and subtracting numbers. For example, knowing that 1 and 3 make 4 lays the foundation for solving  $1 + 3 = 4$ . The ways to make 3, 4, and 5 are listed below.

### Ways to Make 3

1 and 2

2 and 1

### Ways to Make 4

1 and 3

2 and 2

3 and 1

### Ways to Make 5

1 and 4

2 and 3

3 and 2

4 and 1

In class, your child will explore ways to make 3, 4, and 5 using pictures and objects. For example, putting together connecting cubes of different colors helps to visualize the ways to make 4, as shown below.



1 and 3



4

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about making 3, 4, and 5 by doing the following activity together.



### Making 3, 4, and 5 Activity

**Materials:** 5 small objects (such as pasta shapes, dried beans, cereal pieces, buttons, or paper clips), paper plate or sheet of paper

Do the following activity to help your child find ways to make the numbers 3, 4, and 5.

- Draw a line down the center of a paper plate or sheet of paper.
- Give your child 3 small objects. Have your child count the objects and then place them on the plate or paper.
- Show your child how to place the objects on both sides of the line to show a way to make 3. Encourage him or her to tell how the objects make 3. For example, if 1 object is on the left and 2 objects are on the right, your child might say: “1 and 2 make 3.” Then have your child rearrange the objects to show another way to make 3. If there are 2 objects on the left and 1 on the right, he or she might say: “2 and 1 make 3.”
- Repeat the activity, starting with 4 objects and then 5 objects. Try to find and describe all the ways to make each number.

