

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning about addition.



This lesson explores the idea of what it means to add. It also introduces the plus sign and the equal sign as a way to represent the joining together of two groups of objects into a single group. Your child will use connecting cubes as physical models and drawings as visual models to show adding two groups.



$$1 + 3 = 4$$

↑ ↑
 plus sign equal sign

The lesson also introduces different problem situations.

Add To: *There are 2 birds in a tree. 3 more birds join them. How many birds are in the tree now?*

Put Together: *2 oranges and 3 apples are in a bowl. How many pieces of fruit are in the bowl?*

Physically modeling addition, drawing pictures, and exploring different problem situations will help your child make connections to how addition is used in everyday life.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about addition by doing the following activity together.

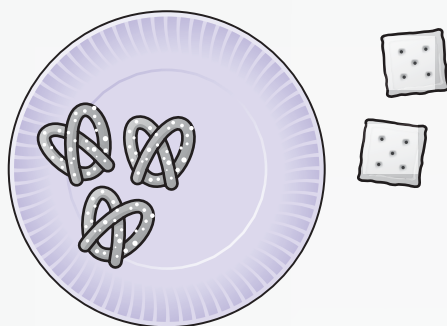


Adding Activity

Materials: 8 small objects of 2 different types or colors (such as pretzels and crackers, dried pasta pieces in 2 different shapes, or buttons in 2 different colors)

Do the following activity to help your child explore what it means to add.

- Give your child two groups of objects that have a combined total of 5 or less. For example, place snack items such as 3 pretzels and 2 crackers in two groups.
- Ask how many objects are in each group. After your child counts, ask an addition problem about the groups, such as: *There are 3 pretzels and 2 crackers. How many snacks are there in all?*
- Your child puts the groups together and counts to find the total. You might also ask your child to write a number sentence, for example $3 + 2 = 5$.



- Ask your child addition problems about small groups of objects whenever you can. For example, have your child add apples and bananas, big spoons and small spoons, or yellow blocks and orange blocks.

