

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning about subtraction.



This lesson explores the idea of what it means to subtract and introduces the minus sign and the equal sign as a way to represent taking away objects from a group. Your child will use counters and/or connecting cubes as physical models and drawings as visual models to show taking away from a group.



Start with 4.  $\rightarrow 4 - 1 = 3 \leftarrow$  There are 3 left.  
 $\uparrow$   
 Take away 1.

Modeling subtraction in these ways can help make connections to subtraction number sentences. For example, one side of a subtraction number sentence shows how many you start with and how many you take away. The other side shows how many are left.

This lesson also explores take away problem situations.

**Take From Result Unknown:** *There are 5 birds in a tree. 2 birds fly away. How many birds are in the tree now?*

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

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



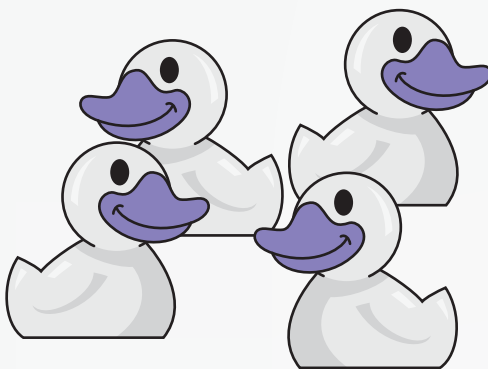
### Subtracting Activity

**Materials:** 5 animal-shape crackers or animal toys (or any small objects such as buttons or blocks)

Show your child groups of 2 to 5 animals. Tell subtraction stories such as the one below. Help your child use the objects to act out each story and solve the problem.

Example:

- *4 ducks were in a pond.* (Have your child count the toy ducks.)
- *1 duck swam away.* (Remove 1 duck from the group.)
- *How many ducks are left?* (Have your child count and tell how many ducks are left.)



If you do not have small objects shaped like animals, you can use any small objects and explain that you will pretend they are ducks (or any animal that is your child's favorite).

