Subtraction — Fact Families

Activity Sheet

Base Sheet

The child discovers that addition and subtraction are related by exploring fact families. Using concrete materials, they see that 3 + 5 = 8, 5 + 3 = 8, 8 - 3 = 5, and 8 - 5 = 3 are all part of the same number family.

What You Need:

- Counters or small objects (20)
- Fact family triangle cards (optional)
- Paper and pencil
- Work mat

Steps:

1. Present 8 counters. Separate them into groups of 3 and 5.
2. '3 and 5 make 8. Write it: 3 + 5 = 8.'
3. 'Turn it around: 5 and 3 also make 8. Write: 5 + 3 = 8.'
4. 'Now start with 8 and take away 3. What is left? 5! Write: 8 - 3 = 5.'
5. 'Start with 8 and take away 5. What is left? 3! Write: 8 - 5 = 3.'
6. 'These four equations are a FACT FAMILY — they all use the same three numbers!'
7. The child creates 2-3 more fact families with different numbers.

Work Space: