Fact Families — Addition and Subtraction Relationships

Activity Sheet

Base Sheet

The child discovers that addition and subtraction facts come in families of related equations. Using manipulatives and triangular fact family cards, the child sees that 3+5=8, 5+3=8, 8-3=5, and 8-5=3 are all related.

What You Need:

- Red and blue counters (20 of each)
- Triangular fact family cards
- Recording sheet
- Pencil
- Work mat

Steps:

1. 'Addition and subtraction are best friends — they are OPPOSITES! Today we will discover FACT FAMILIES.'
2. Place 3 red counters and 5 blue counters on the mat. 'How many altogether? 8!'
3. Write: 3 + 5 = 8. 'Can we switch them? 5 + 3 = 8. Yes! Addition works both ways.'
4. 'Now, start with 8. Take away the 3 red ones. How many are left? 5! 8 - 3 = 5.'
5. 'Start with 8 again. Take away the 5 blue ones. How many? 3! 8 - 5 = 3.'
6. 'These four equations are a FACT FAMILY: 3+5=8, 5+3=8, 8-3=5, 8-5=3. They all use the same three numbers!'
7. Present triangular fact family cards: 3, 5, 8 on the three corners.
8. Child generates fact families for: {2, 7, 9}, {4, 6, 10}, {3, 8, 11}.
9. 'Knowing one fact helps you know THREE more!'

Work Space: