

Word Problems — Introduction with Subtraction

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child is introduced to word problems using concrete objects and familiar scenarios. This bridges the gap between manipulative-based math and real-world problem solving.

What You Need:

- Counting objects (buttons, beads, or small toys)
- Paper and pencil for recording equations
- Whiteboard and marker (optional)
- Story problem cards (optional)

Steps:

1. 'Math is not just numbers on paper — math is everywhere! Let's solve some real-life math stories.'
2. Tell a simple story: 'You had 8 apples. You gave 3 to your friend. How many do you have left?'
3. Act it out with real objects (8 counters, remove 3).
4. 'What math did we just do? $8 - 3 = 5$! That is a word problem.'
5. Tell 3-4 more stories, each time having the child identify the operation and solve with objects.
6. The child writes the equation for each story.
7. Bonus: the child creates their own word problem for the parent to solve.

Work Space:

