

1

Balancing act

Draw the following boxes on the board and ask children to think of numbers that would make the number sentences true.

$$\square = \square + \square \quad \text{and} \quad \square = \square - \square$$

Take it a step further so that children can see that the equals means 'is of equal value but may look different', e.g. $5+3 = 4+4$. Ask the children to suggest numbers to complete the following number sentence.

$$\square + \square = \square + \square$$

2

Buy one get three absolutely free!

Write on a cardboard outline of a bottle a number bond such as $7 + 2 = 9$ and show this to the children. Explain that it's a 'buy one get three free' offer as we also know that $2 + 7 = 9$, that $9 - 2 = 7$ and that $9 - 7 = 2$ (have each of these also written out onto cardboard bottle outlines). Challenge children to say the three 'free' calculations for any given calculation. Record each set of calculations onto shopping item outlines so that they can be added to a fun maths display.

3

What's in the box?

Take a decorated box and place in it a number of marbles, counters, small plastic toys or even sweets. Begin with numbers below ten, moving on to numbers to twenty as children grow in confidence. Remove a number of items from the box and ask the children how many are left in the box. Continue to remove and add items asking how many are in the box each time. Pick up the pace to encourage speedy calculations.

4

Wipe out

Playing in pairs, each player sets up three 'unifix' towers of five cubes. They then take it in turns to roll a die to give the number of cubes they need to take away from any of their towers. The aim is to be the first to remove all of their cubes. Challenge children to record the subtraction number sentence each time they remove some cubes. Note that they must get the exact number needed to remove the final cubes of any tower.

5

Number bonds recipes

Count out any number of counters below ten. Place the counters into two separate bowls to demonstrate how the number can be made up, e.g. seven counters could be shared out as two in one bowl and five in another. Ask a child to divide the counters to show a different number of counters in each bowl but giving the same total. Record the additions on a recipe card for that number. Give pairs of children a given number of counters and two bowls so they can work out the recipes for their target number. For more able children work on number bonds up to twenty.