

Subtracting: Know any number - 0 = same number

Number sentences

Make a number sentence where you are subtracting 0. Ask the child to work out the answer using objects. $0 - 0 = 0$ is an important example to use.

- What will you use?
- Can you do it?
- What is the answer?

Repeat this with another number sentence that adds 0.

- What do you notice?
- Is there a rule?

Stories

You could demonstrate this using a story if the child is finding it difficult to visualise 0. Eg “There were 3 children in the classroom. Nobody left. How many children are in the classroom now?”

Any number - 0 = unchanged number - The child will need to see that 0 is nothing and so there is no object/Numicon piece etc to represent this and so the number is **unchanged**.

Write it down

If a child is finding it hard to understand, you could create a table with them (see below for an example). Ask them to fill out the table and see if they can talk about what has happened when they subtracted 0.

Completed table
(To be filled in with the child)

	-2	-1	-0
3			
4			
5			

	-2	-1	-0
3	1	2	3
4	2	3	4
5	3	4	5

Fun Challenge

When you think that they have spotted the pattern, ask them what $100 - 0$ equals. Then you can ask them $1000 - 0$ and $1,000,000 - 0$. The child will be really excited to be able to say they can do a sum using 1,000,000!