

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.

	-2	-1	-0
3			
4			
5			

Completed table
(To be filled in with the child)

	-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!