

Subtracting: Subtract a 1-digit number from a 1-digit number mentally

Note: If the child is struggling with mental subtraction, they need to go back to counting backwards from a number and using their fingers to subtract.

Repetition

This is another repetitive task and makes a good quick starter for sessions.

Strategies

- Without the number sentence written down, the child might find it hard to retain the question. Ask the child to tap their head and say the greater number so they are 'putting it in their head'. Asking them which number is greater than the other is a way of helping them remember the numbers that they are working with. Once you are confident they have the greater number in their head, ask them what number they are subtracting.
- You can try making a simple story to help the child visualise and remember. Eg, a monkey has 9 bananas. She eats 4. How many are left?
- A strong knowledge of number bonds will help the child with mental subtraction. You could start with subtraction from 10. Remind the child that if they know that $6+4=10$, then they know that $10-4=6$. **If they don't really understand this, go right back to basics and use counters or Numicon to help them see the relationship.**
- As part of the above, if they have a good understanding of part-part-whole diagrams (below) then they can use their knowledge of addition number facts (such as number bonds of 10) to remember subtraction number facts.
- Try to get the child to explain what they did in their head. Vocalising their mental maths helps to understand how they work. If children struggle with this, go back to something that they can visualise. Numicon works well with this.

