

Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers

Dear Family,

Your child is learning to add and subtract whole numbers with and without rounding. Rounding is used to find values that are close to a correct answer. Rounding is a useful skill to check if an answer is reasonable. For example, if you buy two pairs of pants for \$18 each, the total should be about \$40. If you get a very different answer to the problem $18 + 18$, then you probably did something wrong.

Your child will get a lot of practice doing “mental math,” either by solving an addition problem or a rounded version without paper and pencil. He or she will also learn how to use computation aids like number blocks. The activity below is an example of the types of problems your child will solve in this chapter.

Time for a Party

Materials: paper and pencil

Step 1 A two-liter bottle can serve about 10 cups and each person will probably have two cups. Ask your child how many students are in his or her math class and estimate together how much juice you will need.

Step 2 About how many bags of chips and jars of salsa will you need?

Step 3 The next time you go to the store, take your child along and get prices for what you would buy. Make a table together showing the approximate cost of each item, the number you would need, and the estimated cost of what you would need.

Step 4 Estimate how much your party would cost.