MATHTIPS FOR PARENTS

## KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next week, our math class will learn about numbers to 5 as students count objects arranged in different counting configurations and answer the question, "How many?" Students will break apart the numbers 3,4 , and 5 and find their hidden partners. For example, "I see 4 cubes and 1 cube hiding inside the 5-cube stick." (See image.) Students will listen to simple number stories. ("There are 3 flowers. Two flowers are red, and 1 flower is yellow.") Then students will determine a matching expression:
 $2+1$ or $1+2$.

You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Count objects up to 5 in linear configurations (5-group) and determine the total.
- Color objects to find hidden partners inside groupings of 3, 4, and 5. For example, "There are 3 circles. I see 2 shaded circles and 1 unshaded circle hiding inside 3."

- Color shapes or draw lines to show an expression (e.g., $4+1$ ).

SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 10)

Color 2 stars to see the hidden partners.
Count the objects. Circle the total number.

$3 \quad 2 \quad 1$

## HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- During snack time, invite your child to arrange and count up to five fish-shaped crackers (or other small snack foods) in a line, a circle, and a scattered configuration. Encourage your child to show his counting path with a finger. For an added challenge, gradually increase the total number of items to 10 .
- Hidden Partners with Dice: Roll a die and call out the number (e.g., "4"). Invite your child to find the hidden partners (e.g., "I see 1 and 3 hiding inside 4"). Note: If you roll a one, roll again until you get a higher number so your child can practice finding hidden partners.
- Invite your child to show the numbers 3,4 , and 5 on her fingers, using various combinations of fingers. Point out the hidden partners by saying, for example, "You found 2 and 2 hiding inside 4."


TERMS

Counting configurations: Various arrangements of objects for counting.


Hidden partners: Two smaller numbers that add up to the total. For example, "2 and 3 are hiding inside 5."

5-group: A math drawing with up to two rows of 5 dots per row, used to draw special attention to the 5 in numbers 6-10.


