



Apple Addition and Subtraction

Run a fruit stand and solve addition and subtraction orders.

Helps Your Child Grow



Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Adding and taking away apples makes changes in quantity visible and helps your child represent addition and subtraction with objects or fingers.



Attending and Understanding

Following a sequence of requests such as “Mom wants one” and “Dad wants three” gives your child practice holding spoken information in mind and acting on each part.

Steps

- Set out several apples and open a pretend fruit stand where your child uses addition and subtraction to fill orders.
- Mom says, “Hello, shopkeeper. I want one apple, and Dad wants three. How many do we need altogether?”
- If the answer is difficult, place Mom’s one apple and Dad’s three apples in separate groups, then bring them together and count four.
- For subtraction, pretend Dad calls: “Dad changed his mind. He is returning two apples.” Let your child remove two and count what remains.
- Once the actions are familiar, use fingers instead of apples so the quantities can be imagined with less support.

Tips

- If your child is familiar with written numbers, show how the actions can also be recorded as “ $1 + 3 = 4$ ” and “ $4 - 2 = 2$.”
- Many children progress from counting objects, to counting on fingers, to working with quantities mentally. Each step supports the move from concrete counting toward abstract thinking.

Observations

- Uses apples to work out addition by combining and subtraction by taking away
- Takes the requested apples after hearing that Mom wants one and Dad wants three