## Representing & Solving Problems Involving Addition & Subtraction #1 Most Critical First Grade Skill

Our first graders need many, many opportunities to represent and solve addition and subtraction problems within 10 until they become effortless and **automatic**.

Initially, first graders must be able to count forward to 10/backward from 10, recognize numbers by name 0-10, and write numbers 0-10 effortlessly and **automatically**. They must understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from within 10. They also must understand the meaning of the addition sign, minus sign, and equal sign.



## Gradual Stages of Math Facts to Automaticity

- Use objects (counters, fingers, etc.)
  to represent and solve an addition or subtraction problem. (oral or written response)
- 2. **Draw pictures** (circles, tally marks, etc.) to represent and solve an addition or subtraction problem. (oral or written response)
- 3. **Eyes-Only**, solve an addition or subtraction problem (no objects or pictures needed) with **increasing automaticity**. (oral or written response)
- 4. **Automaticity** solve addition or subtraction problems **effortlessly** presented either written or read orally **Mental Math**. (no visuals needed)

## Addition and/or Subtraction Automaticity Game

## **Directions:**

- Players each place a marker (plastic chip) on the START position.
- Players take turns.
- On a turn, a player rolls a dice, moves their marker (plastic chip) that number of spaces, and solves the addition or subtraction problem (objects for counting & whiteboards can be used if needed).
- If the player solves the problem correctly then their turn is over.
- If the player's answer is not correct then the player jumps back one space and solves the problem. This repeats until the player solves a problem correctly and then their turn is over.
- The player that arrives at the FINISH position first wins the game.
- There are 3 different game boards.

Move through the Gradual Stages of Math Facts until your child is at the Automaticity Stage.

Watch your addition and subtraction signs.





