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# **Subtraction Number Facts - Teaching Strategies**

#### - 1: Count Back Facts

Subtract 1 facts are taught using a *count back one* strategy: Students who are familiar with the sequence of counting numbers backwards can mentally "count back" to the previous number, and name it.

A number line will help children to

Daily practice from a young age makes visualisation of numbers up to 10 an automatic task.

## - 2: Count Back Facts

Subtract 2 facts are taught using a *count back two* strategy: Students who are familiar with the sequence of counting numbers backwards can mentally "count back" two



Ten frames are also an excellent way for children to visualise the count back one strategy. With frequent use of ten frames, subtracting one is an easy step. For example:







Ten frames will also help children to learn the numbers which are two apart. With frequent use of ten frames, subtracting two is an easy step: for example:

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#### - 3: Count Back Facts

Subtract 3 facts are taught using a *count back* three strategy: Students who are familiar with the sequence of counting numbers backwards can mentally "count back" three



more numbers. A number line will help children to visualize this operation which "skips" two numbers and lands on the number three before the starting number. Also included are questions in which the difference

is 3. As students become familiar with counting, they will know which numbers are three away from each other the facts are foundational for many other mathematical skills, such as giving change.



Ten frames are excellent resources to support learning of rainbow facts, as the counters added clearly show the number remaining to add to ten. Students can either tell the number of blank spaces, or fill them



## **Rainbow Facts**

Rainbow subtraction facts are taught using a subtract from ten strategy: the number subtracted and the difference together equal ten.

Students can be shown a rainbow graphic to illustrate the fact that these pairs are equidistant from the number five. Rainbow none from a group.

Subtracting ten from a teen number results in the associated single digit number which has the same number of ones; most pairs of a single digit number and the associated teen number sound similar (e.g., "fourteen" and "four"). This can be illustrated easily with a pair of ten frames:





# **Doubles**

Doubles subtraction number facts are - 9

Minus nine number facts are taught using a near ten strategy: encourage students to think of subtracting ten, then adding one.

Ten frames illustrate this idea very effectively, and students should not have trouble understanding the idea for themselves. For example:



taught using a think of doubles plus one strategy. Once double plus one addition facts are memorized, students can recall the numbers. associated and answer а subtraction fact. These are some of the most challenging subtraction facts, and for many students will require extra time to learn them.

# Remaining facts

Once the previous recommended strategies have been learned, there are just two pairs of subtraction facts which remain: