

Inverse Operations Reasoning

Parents: Children in year 2 are developing their understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction, and the fact that subtraction can be used to check addition and vice versa. Often, schools use the 'part-part-whole' model to help children understand this – in an addition, the two 'parts' are the numbers that are added to make the 'whole', so in a subtraction the 'whole' is the first number, with one 'part' taken away to leave the other 'part' as the answer. To show full mastery, children need to be able to reason about what is happening in problems they are solving. Encourage your child to talk about their thinking, when considering each of these problems, and to make informal notes to help them think through different options.