

To Parents and Adults at Home ...

Your child's class is starting a mathematics unit on whole numbers. Your child will learn how to represent and describe whole numbers to 1 000 000 in a variety of ways. He or she will also develop strategies for estimating sums and differences with whole numbers, and learn when to apply these strategies in ways that are appropriate and effective.

In this unit, your child will:

- Recognize and read numbers to 1 000 000.
- Read and write numbers in standard, expanded, and written forms.
- Use place value to represent numbers.
- Estimate sums and differences, and select and use estimation strategies to determine if his or her calculations are reasonable.
- Pose and solve problems using whole numbers.

Students are encouraged to use a variety of estimation strategies to add and subtract depending on situation and context. Calculating with number sense means that children look at the numbers and operations involved and choose the most efficient strategy. Ask your child to show you some of the different estimation strategies that he or she uses. Here's a suggestion for an activity you can do at home:

Newspaper Numbers

Take a page each from a newspaper and circle all the numbers in the articles and advertisements on that page. Then talk about the circled numbers. Which are estimates? Which are not? How can you tell? Next, both of you choose one number and describe it to one another in terms of its number of millions, ten thousands, thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones only. Then challenge your child to find your secret number while you identify her or his number.