

Butterfly Addition and Subtraction Worksheets

These worksheets are designed to help children practice addition and subtraction. A large workmat is provided for the children to use, as well as worksheets for sums and differences from five to twelve.

This is the recommended sequence of instruction for addition:

1. Introduce the activity by giving each child a copy of the workmat and some counters. We used lima beans that were painted in lots of pretty colors, but any manipulative will do. The counters represent the spots on the butterfly's wings.
2. For addition, roll a die or spin a spinner to get the first addend. Then have the children place that many counters on one of the butterfly's wings. Then roll again for the second addend and place that many counters on the other wing. Have the children count up the total number of manipulatives to find the answer to the addition problem. Show them how you can write the equation that represents that problem on a white board or piece of paper. Do this several times.
3. If possible, place these workmats into a page protector or some kind of "write-on, wipeoff" surface. Then give the children wet or dry erase markers and do the same activity as above, but have them draw the spots on the butterfly rather than place the manipulatives there. Then have them write their own equations.
4. Once they understand what they are doing, they are ready to try this on the worksheets. Good luck!

## This is the recommended sequence of instruction for subtraction:

1. Introduce the activity by giving each child a copy of the workmat and some counters. Decide how many counters you wish to start with, and have them place that many objects on the butterfly's wings. I always have them put a few on either side.
2. Spin a spinner or roll a die to decide how many objects should be subtracted, and have the children take that many away. I always try to have them show me how many they took away, just to make sure that they did this correctly. Otherwise, they will get the wrong answer.
3. Then, just have them count out how many are left to get the difference. Show them how to write a subtraction equation, and have them try to write one of their own.
4. Once they understand what they are doing, they are ready to try this on the worksheets. Show them that on the very last problem, they will have to draw their own spots on the butterfly, so it is important that they draw the correct amount of spots to begin with, or the answer will not come out right.
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$+4$
$+4$
$+3$
$+1$
$+1$
$+2$
$+3$

Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Five


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Six


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Seven


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Eight


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Nine


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Ten


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Eleven


Butterfly Subtraction: Differences From Twelve


