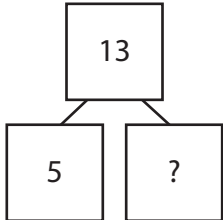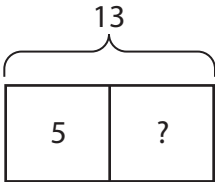# Solve One-Step Word Problems

## Dear Family,

This week your child is learning different ways to solve one-step word problems using addition or subtraction.

Consider the following word problem below.

*Alex has 13 carrot sticks. He eats 5 carrot sticks. How many carrot sticks does he have left?*

You can model this problem in many different ways.

| You can write what you know and what you do not know. | You can use a number bond. |
|---|---|
| Total carrot sticks: 13<br>Carrot sticks eaten: 5<br>Carrot sticks left: ? | 13<br><br>5   ? |

**You can use a bar model (also called a tape diagram).**

13

5   ?

Each of these models will help you write all the facts of the fact family.

$$13 - 5 = ? \qquad 13 - ? = 5 \qquad 5 + ? = 13 \qquad ? + 5 = 13$$

You can solve to find that Alex has 8 carrot sticks left.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about solving one-step word problems by doing the following activity together.

# ACTIVITY : SOLVING ONE-STEP WORD PROBLEMS

**Do this activity with your child to explore solving one-step word problems.**

*Materials* 20 small objects (pennies, buttons, bite-sized crackers), a cup or other container

- Place 9 pennies in one cup and 6 pennies on the table.

- Ask your child the four questions below.  Each time, give one equation that could be used to solve the problem (provided in parentheses).  Then have your child give all the related equations in the same fact family.  (The equations in the fact family are given below the question.)

  1. How many coins are there in all? $(9 + 6 = 15)$

  2. How many more pennies are in the cup than on the table? $(9 - 6 = 3)$

  3. If I take away 2 pennies from the cup, how many pennies will be left in the cup? $(9 - 2 = 7)$

  4. How many pennies will I need to put on the table to have 10 pennies on the table? $(10 - 6 = 4)$

- Repeat with a different number of pennies in the cup and on the table.