**Grade 2 Unit 2 Family Letter: Fact Strategies within 20**

Dear Second Grade Families,

**Our Focus**

In Unit 2, your child will learn multiple strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with up to three addends. As your child learns basic math facts, it is helpful for him or her to understand a few simple strategies to help solve these facts. The goal for all grade 2 students is know these basic facts with automatic recall, but in the meantime they need a strategy.

**Instructional Approach**

Strategies taught include counting on, using related facts, doubles, and doubles plus/minus one. They will construct bar models, draw pictorial models and use manipulatives to solve problems. Students will also solve one and two step word problems involving composing and decomposing numbers.

**Family Support**

The following are examples of the different strategies your child can practice at home.

**Counting On**: This strategy is used when adding 1, 2, or 3 to any number.

For example: 7 + 2 = \_\_.  Tell your child to put the bigger number in their mind and count up 2.

**Tens Facts:**  5 + 5 = 10, 6 + 4 = 10, 3 + 7 = 10

**Double Facts**: 4 + 4 = 8, 5 + 5 = 10, 6 + 6 = 12

**Doubles plus One**

If your child is learning a fact like 6 + 7, these are the steps to think through:

* Double the lower number, which in this case would give you 6 + 6 =12.
* Now add one: (The second 6 was a 7, remember?)
* Think 6 + 6 + 1 = 13 or 12 + 1 = 13.
* Now say the fact: 6 + 7 = 13
* One of the things that we must help children do is recognize when to use a particular strategy.  For the Doubles plus One strategy tell the children "when the numbers are next door neighbors (the numbers are consecutive like 6 and 7) then we can use the doubles plus one strategy."

**Solving Word Problems**

* **Bar model:** This is alearning tool designed to help students solve word problems efficiently. They help students to identify known and unknown quantities.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ? |  8 |
| 13 |

* **Pictorial Model**: This is a visual representation of a number sentence within a word problem. Students may use drawings of objects or base ten blocks.
 ? + 8 = 13



 Sincerely,

 The Grade 2 Math Team