Parent Tip

"Subtracting 9, 8 and 7"

The next <u>subtracting</u> math fact strategy that your child has learned is "Subtracting 9" (next week subtracting 8 and the following week subtracting 7).

Meet "Merlyn the Archer"

<u>Merlyn the Archer</u> is the enemy of <u>Green Arrow</u> (*adding* with 9). He shoots deadly arrows from his bow (like when we use arrows to 'bridge' on the number line).

Some students are using a number line and counting back 9 (or 8 or 7). Here are <u>some</u> of the other strategies that students in our class are using:

<u>"Friendly Number"</u> – **One way** is to turn the 9 (or 8 or 7) into the "friendly number" 10 and then give back 1 (or 2 for 8 or 3 for 7).
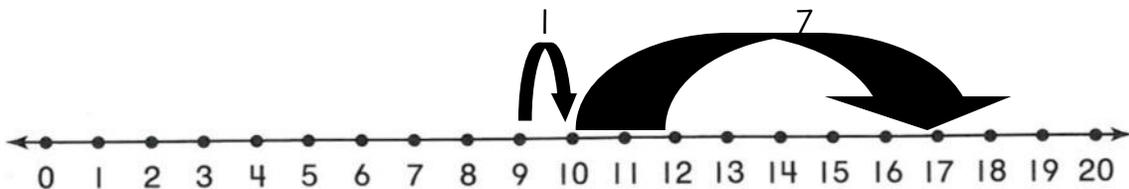
<u>Example:</u> 17 – 9 = ?, *think* I'll make the 9 a 10, because 10 is easier to subtract... so 17 - 10 = 7. Then I give back the difference between 9 and 10 which is 1. (I took away 1 too many.) 7 + 1 = 8. So... 17 - 9 = 8.

<u>"Bridging to 10"</u> – **A second way** is to think "addition for subtraction" (The Incredibles).

Example: 17 - 9 = ?, *think* What do I need to add to 9 to get 17? 9 + ? = 17

Let's start by making the friendly number 10. How many more to get from 9 to 10? That would be 1. Then add another 7 to get from 10 to 17, so that means the anwer is 8 because

1 + 7 = 8. So... 17 - 9 = 8.

<u>**"Take Away the Ones"**</u> – **A third way** is to "take away the ones" and then take away the rest.

These are the ones

Example: 17 - 9 = ?, *think* I can take away 7 ones from the 17 …so 17 - 7 = 10. Then I need to take away 2 more because I was supposed to take away 9 not 7. 10 – 2 = 8. So… 17 - 9 = 8.

•Please practice using the enclosed flashcards. Ask your child, "How did you get your answer?" to see what strategies your child is using.