

## Subtraction Smash

If you have it, please use playdough or blue tac for this activity as it will work best. If not, then you can just use objects and physically take them away from view when you subtract.

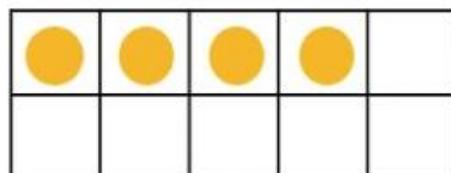
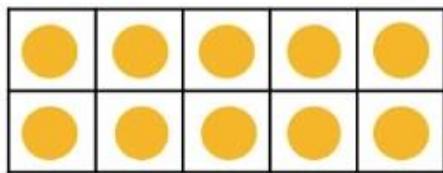
Show your child a subtraction calculation e.g.  $7 - 4 =$  Talk about the symbol ‘-’ as meaning ‘subtract’ or ‘less’ or ‘minus’. In this particular activity, as you are not actually taking them away, you are just squashing them, it is best to avoid the word ‘take away’ (If you choose to use objects that you take away then obviously that word is ok.)

They make 7 balls of playdough to match the start number and then smash down 4 so that they are flat and see how many are left. Can they see how many are left without counting them? Can they write the number to complete the calculation?



This is an example for  $3 - 2 =$   
You can see that 2 of the balls of playdough have been smashed down.  
Your child would then write  $3 - 2 = 1$ .

If your child is confident working with numbers to 10, they could try some subtraction over 10. Be sure that they make the first number by showing 10 and something e.g. if it's 14, they should make 10 balls of playdough, and then 4 next to it as this will help them to see 14 as 10 and 4, rather than counting in 1s to 14 (see example below).



## Rainforest shop

Set up your own rainforest shop. You could have natural products like the Baka tribe might want and sell leaves, sticks, stones, bugs or you could sell things you have in the house that relate to the rainforest like food, cuddly toys, plastic animals. You could make your own things to go in the shop like fruits, vegetables, bows and arrows. Label each item with a price (up to 10p or 20p depending on your child) and then you and the rest of your family can come and buy things using 1p coins to pay. Buy one item at a time and count out the correct amount or buy two items and add the two numbers together (using objects or fingers to help if you need to)

